

## B r i e f

### Licensing Windows Server 2008 R2 Remote Desktop Services and Terminal Services

February 2012

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## Summary

This licensing brief helps to clarify Microsoft® licensing policies for Windows Server® Remote Desktop Services (RDS) and Terminal Services (TS), including the new components that are in the Windows Server 2008 R2 Service Pack (SP) 1 operating system.

## What's New in This Brief?

- Details of the name change from “Licensing Windows Server 2008 Terminal Services” to “Licensing Windows Server 2008 R2 Remote Desktop Services and Terminal Services”
- The App-V for TS Client Access License (CAL) is included in the RDS CAL
- Additional FAQ about the change

## Details

Microsoft Remote Desktop Services is a centralized desktop and application platform solution that uses desktop virtualization technologies to deliver and manage corporate desktops in a more flexible way. RDS is the new name for Terminal Services and reflects the expanded role in Windows Server 2008 R2, which is that desktop or applications can run in the data center while users can access them from anywhere.

## Name Change

Following the release of Windows Server 2008 R2 in September 2009, the Terminal Services role was renamed Remote Desktop Services. This reflects the added new and improved features for traditional TS scenarios and the expanded role to provide an extensible platform for Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) solutions. The CAL has also changed names from the Terminal Services CAL to the Remote Desktop Services CAL.

Despite the new name change of the Windows Server 2008 TS CAL to Windows Server 2008 RDS CAL, it is important to note that Windows Server 2008 TS CALs and Windows Server 2008 RDS CALs function similarly. Customers who purchase new Windows Server 2008 R2 licenses for their servers can allow any user or device covered with a Windows Server 2008 TS CAL to access Remote Desktop Services on Windows Server 2008 R2 licensed systems. Users can use Windows Server 2008 RDS CAL with both Windows Server 2008 TS and Windows Server 2008 RDS server roles.

## The App-V for TS CAL Is Included in the Windows Server 2008 RDS CAL

With the name change from TS to RDS, the rights to App-V are included in the RDS CAL so that a broader set of RDS customers can take advantage of the benefits of Microsoft Application Virtualization.

## RDS Technologies Requiring RDS CALs

Microsoft licensing policies for Windows Server Remote Desktop Services, including the components that are included in Windows Server 2008 and Windows Server 2008 R2, require that in addition to a Windows Server Client Access License, Microsoft Core CAL Suite, or Microsoft Enterprise CAL Suite, you must acquire a Windows Server 2008 RDS CAL for each user or device that directly or indirectly accesses the server software to interact with a remote graphical user interface (GUI) (using the Windows Server 2008 R2 Remote Desktop Services functionality or other technology).

Remote Desktop Services functionality is defined as those features or services that are running when enabling the Remote Desktop Services role and/or role service(s) in Windows Server 2008 or Windows Server 2008 R2. This includes but is not limited to Remote Desktop Gateway, RemoteApp™ network software, Remote Desktop Web Access, Remote Desktop Connection broker, Remote Desktop session host, Remote Desktop Virtualization host, and RemoteFX®.

Note: No RDS CALs are required for up to two users to access instances of the server software for administration purposes.

## RDS CALs Available

The following types of RDS Server Client Access Licenses are available:

**RDS Device CAL:** Permits one device (used by any user) to use Remote Desktop Services functionality on any of your servers.

**RDS User CAL:** Permits one user (using any device) to use Remote Desktop Services functionality on any of your servers.

**RDS External Connector:** Permits multiple external users to access a single Remote Desktop server. If you have multiple servers, you need multiple external connectors in addition to any required Windows Server External Connectors.

You may choose to combine RDS Device CALs and RDS User CALs simultaneously with the server software. You may permanently reassign your device CAL from one device to another or your user CAL from one user to another. You may temporarily reassign your device CAL to a loaner device while the first device is out of service, or reassign your user CAL to a temporary worker while the worker is absent.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Is this a change from Windows Server 2003 licensing?

No. The same licensing rules applied for Windows Server 2003. Because Windows Server 2008 R2 Remote Desktop Services offers significant new functionality, this brief clarifies the licensing rights for these new features.

**Do I need an RDS CAL if I am using a third-party technology like Citrix XenApp, Ericom PowerTerm WebConnect, Quest Virtual Access Suite, GraphOn Go-Global, etc. to directly or indirectly access the server software to interact with the GUI?**

Yes. An RDS CAL is required for any technology used to directly or indirectly interact with the GUI. This includes (but is not limited to) using Microsoft Remote Desktop Services or other third-party software that enables multiuser scenarios on Windows Server.

**I have Windows Server 2003 TS CALs and have upgraded to Windows Server 2008 R2; what do I need to do?**

You need to purchase Windows Server 2008 RDS CALs to replace the Windows Server 2003 TS CALs. However, if you have Microsoft Software Assurance on the Windows Server 2003 TS CALs, the upgrade to Windows Server 2008 RDS CALs is free.

**Is a separate RDS CAL needed for Windows Server 2008 R2 or Windows Server 2008 R2 SP1?**

No. The Windows Server TS CAL (upgraded) or the Windows Server RDS CALs are the only CALs needed to license RDS for the Windows Server 2008 R2 or Windows Server 2008 R2 SP1.

**Do I need an RDS CAL if I am not running a multiuser environment but use functionality in Remote Desktop Services—for example, Remote Desktop Gateway?**

Yes. An RDS CAL is required to use any functionality included in the Remote Desktop Services role in Windows Server. For example, if you are using RDS Gateway and/or RDS Web Access to provide access to a Windows Client operating system on an individual PC, both an RDS CAL and Windows Server CAL are required.

**Do I have to acquire RDS CALs if I am only remotely administering Windows Server operating systems by using Remote Desktop for Administration?**

No. Up to two users may connect to the Windows Server operating system simultaneously to perform administrative functions without needing any RDS CALs. Additional administrative users need the appropriate RDS CALs.

**If I am using VMware to enable a VDI solution, do I need an RDS CAL?**

If the solution uses any RDS roles (Remote Desktop Gateway, Remote App, RD Web Access, RD connection broker, RD Session Host, or RD Virtualization Host, or RemoteFX), then a RDS CAL is required.

**Where can I learn more?**

You can find additional information from the Microsoft Product Use Rights (PUR) site at <http://www.microsoftvolumelicensing.com/userights/PUR.aspx>.