



Reseller Virtualization Licensing FAQ

DO VIRTUALIZATION RIGHTS DIFFER FROM OEM TO VL LICENSE TYPES?

No – all license types (OEM, VL and Retail) have the same virtualization rights. It is important to distinguish between the “assigned license rights” and the “virtualization rights”. A server license must be assigned to a piece of hardware. For OEM, the license is permanently assigned to the shipping hardware. For VL, the license must be assigned to a server and can be transferred to another server not more than once every 90 days.

The “virtualization rights” are determined by the WS Edition that has been assigned to the box. The rights are the same regardless of the assigned license type (Retail, VL or OEM).

SHOULD I BE CONCERNED THAT MY OEM LICENSE “LIVES AND DIES” W/ THE SERVER HARDWARE?

No. In reality, the industry standard for server hardware refresh is every 2-4 years. The longevity of the hardware typically exceeds a SW refresh cycle. When upgrading hardware, a new version of software is available and would make sense for the customer to purchase with the new hardware. Hardware failure could be covered by Hardware Manufacturer Warranty.

ARE OEM VIRTUAL MACHINES PORTABLE OR ARE THEY PERMANENTLY ASSIGNED TO A SERVER?

All Windows Server license types support virtual machine (VM) portability. Virtual machines (VM/Instances) are licensing-agnostic (VL, OEM, retail based images) and you can dynamically move instances of the software to any licensed server with the properly licensed edition that is capable of running the VM. You have the rights to run as many instances on the server as the assigned License Terms allow.

IF MY OEM SERVER DIES, DO MY OEM-BASED VIRTUAL MACHINES DIE ALSO?

No. VMs that have been created based on an OEM image can still run after the originally purchased server and license are no longer operational. A customer may create and store (for example on a SAN) as many VMs as they like. The VMs can be based on any license type (OEM, VL, Retail, etc). These VMs can run on any server as long as the maximum virtualization rights of the assigned License Terms have not been exceeded.

TO RESELLER LICENSING FAQ

HOW MANY PHYSICAL/VIRTUAL INSTALLATIONS CAN THERE BE WITH DIFFERENT VERSIONS OF WINDOWS SERVER?

	Physical Operating System	Virtual Machines (VMs)
Windows Server 2008 R2 Standard	1	1
Windows Server 2008 R2 Enterprise	1	4
Windows Server 2008 R2 Datacenter	1	Unlimited

CAN OEM LICENSES BE USED TO VIRTUALIZE ON ALTERNATIVE HYPERVISOR PLATFORMS (I.E. VMWARE ESX OR CITRIX)?

Yes. Regardless of the hypervisor you choose, the license must be assigned to a server. All Microsoft Windows Server license types can be installed/assigned to a server running ESX or Hyper-V only.

HOW DO OPERATING SYSTEM LICENSING RULES FOR VMWARE VMOTION AND WINDOWS SERVER CLUSTERING SERVICES DIFFER?

The same licensing rules apply to Windows Server Clustering Services as VMotion. While Vmotion moves instances of virtual operating system environments (OSEs) between physical servers, the licenses remain with the physical server to which they were assigned. When an instance is moved to a new physical server, that new server must already have appropriate licenses assigned to it.

WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS FOR SERVER LICENSE DOWNGRADES AND HOW DO I OBTAIN THE MEDIA TO SUPPORT THAT?

All Windows Server operating system License Terms include downgrade rights. Downgrade media kits can be obtained from the Windows Server fulfillment website.

IS FAILOVER HANDLED DIFFERENTLY FOR OEM AND VOLUME LICENSES?

VL and OEM customers with Software Assurance do have limited “Cold” disaster recovery rights. For each instance of eligible server software you run in a physical or virtual OS environment on a licensed server, you may temporarily run a backup instance in a physical or virtual OS environment on a server dedicated to disaster recovery.