

Microsoft Windows Licensing Fact Sheet

Important tips so your customers can make the best choices for their organization when they acquire Microsoft® Windows® desktop licenses.

Tip #1: Do your customers know each PC needs to have its own full Windows desktop license?

There are only two legal ways to acquire a full Windows desktop license for a new PC.

1. The first, and most economical way, is preinstalled through their PC manufacturer.
2. The other option is via full packaged retail product.

Microsoft Volume Licensing programs such as Open License, Select License, and Enterprise Agreements cover Windows upgrades only and **do not provide a full Windows desktop license**. Once the PCs have a full Windows desktop license, a Windows Volume License agreement can be acquired and used to provide version upgrade rights. **More information on Volume Licensing can be found at www.microsoft.com/licensing.**

Tip #2: Did you know that many customers may be unaware they have unlicensed Windows desktops?

Understanding key facts about software licensing will help your customer avoid inadvertent licensing mistakes. Take time to review the scenarios below. Customers may be at risk if they:



Purchased PCs without Windows desktop operating systems preinstalled and then used media associated with a Volume License agreement to install base Windows operating systems.

Unlike Windows XP, product activation is now required for Windows Vista® acquired under a Volume License agreement. Windows Vista has built-in technology that prevents the deployment and activation of a complete install of Windows Vista on PCs if a full Windows desktop license was not preinstalled prior to using the Volume License Windows upgrade media. To resolve any deployment issues it will be necessary to acquire a full license and then re-deploy and activate each PC.

To find out more information on this scenario, please visit <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/windowsvista/bb335280.aspx> and scroll down to 'KMS Activation of OEM Computers'.



Purchased PCs with non-qualifying underlying versions of Windows desktop licenses installed as the base operating system and then used a commercial Volume License agreement to upgrade to a different version of a Windows operating system. See the chart on the next page for more information.



Attempted to save costs by doing in-place motherboard upgrades without acquiring new Windows licenses for those PCs.



Downloaded and installed software from online or unknown sources.

Tip #3: Do your customers know there are Microsoft solutions available to help them with Windows desktop licensing issues?

If your customers discover they have unlicensed or non-genuine Windows desktop software and they want to become compliant:

Microsoft has a portfolio of solutions available to help them get properly licensed, including online solutions and solutions available through their reseller.

Customers can contact their Microsoft reseller for more information or visit, www.microsoft.com/piracy/knowthefacts/legalization.aspx.

Microsoft Windows Upgrades Under Volume Licensing

It is very important for customers to understand the qualifying Windows desktop licenses that allow them to use Windows upgrades under Volume Licensing. This is particularly important if they have purchased or are looking to purchase Windows Vista Home or Windows Vista Starter editions as the underlying licenses and are then planning to upgrade to Windows Vista Business. The table below details the Windows versions that are eligible to use a Windows upgrade under Volume Licensing.

For more information, visit: www.microsoftvolumelicensing.com/userights/productpage.aspx?pid=232.

For each Volume License program, does the operating system qualify for a Windows Upgrade license?	New Enterprise Agreement/ Open Value – Company Wide Option	Existing Enterprise Agreement/ Open Value – Company Wide Option	Select (All except academic)	Open (All except academic & Open Value – Company Wide Option)	Academic
Windows Vista (32-bit or 64-bit)					
Business (N, K, KN Editions)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Business Blade PC Edition	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ultimate	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Home Premium	No	No	No	No	Yes
Home Basic	No	No	No	No	Yes
Starter Edition	No	No	No	No	Yes
Windows XP (32-bit or 64 bit)					
		Yes			
XP Professional	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
XP Tablet PC Edition	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
XP Professional (N Edition)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
XP Professional Blade PC Edition	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
XP Home Edition	No	No	No	No	Yes
XP Starter Edition	No	No	No	No	Yes
Windows 2000 Professional	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Windows NT Workstation 4.0	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Windows 98	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
IBM OS / 2	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Apple Macintosh	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

Note: 'N', 'K', 'KN' are specialized editions available for certain markets, Academic includes Campus and School, Select-Academic and Open-Academic Programs

Additional Resources:

Legalization Solutions Information, www.microsoft.com/piracy/knowthefacts/legalization.aspx

Windows Genuine Advantage (WGA), www.microsoft.com/genuine

Get Genuine Windows Agreement (GGWA), <https://partner.microsoft.com/ggwa>

Microsoft Volume Licensing, www.microsoft.com/licensing

Product Licensing Website, www.microsoft.com/licensing/userights

Volume Activation 2.0, <http://www.microsoft.com/licensing/resources/vol/default.aspx>.

Windows Vista Volume Activation 2.0 Step-By-Step Guide, <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/windowsvista/bb335280.aspx>

