

Software Assurance

Volume Licensing

Software Assurance (SA) is included in many Microsoft Licensing Programs, and is an optional purchase on others. SA contains a range of benefits which provide technology, services and support to manage the software lifecycle. SA benefits are managed through the Volume Licensing Service Center (VLSC) to which organizations may give access to their partners if required: <https://www.microsoft.com/licensing/servicecenter/home.aspx>

SOFTWARE ASSURANCE BENEFITS BY AGREEMENT

		OPEN	SELECT AND SELECT PLUS	OPEN VALUE	SELECT PLUS SAM, EA, ESA
GENERAL	New Version Rights - Rights to new software versions released during the term of the agreement. Available for all server, application and systems products as well as Office 365 and Windows Intune	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Spread Payments - Option to make annual payments rather than one up-front payment. Available for all server, application and systems products as well as Office 365 and Windows Intune		✓	✓	✓
DESKTOP DEPLOYMENT	Windows 8 Enterprise - Windows 8 SKU optimized for mid and large organizations. Available for systems products and Windows Intune	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Microsoft Desktop Optimization Pack (MDOP) - Rights to purchase these tools to take advantage of desktop virtualization and better manage Windows devices. Available for systems products and Windows Intune		✓	✓	✓
	Windows To Go - Rights to run Windows 8 Enterprise on a bootable USB stick. Available for systems products and Windows Intune	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Windows Roaming Use Rights - Access Windows 8 Enterprise on third party devices while away from the office. Available for systems products and Windows Intune	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Companion Subscription License - Rights to purchase a license to cover additional devices in Windows To Go and VDI scenarios. Available for systems products and Windows Intune		✓		✓
	Enterprise Sideload - Rights to install new Windows 8 Apps directly to a device without going through the Windows Store. Available for systems products and Windows Intune		✓		✓
	Home Use Program - Rights for employees to purchase Microsoft Office to use at home. Available for qualifying desktop applications and Office suites	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Virtualization Rights for Windows Desktops - Rights to run Windows 8 Enterprise in up to 4 VMs on a licensed device. Available for Windows 8 Enterprise and Windows Intune	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Training Vouchers - Technical training from Microsoft Certified Partners for Learning Solutions. Available for application and systems products			✓	✓
	E-Learning - Flexible self-paced learning for end users and technical staff. Available for all server, application and systems products as well as Office 365 and Windows Intune	✓	✓	✓	✓
SUPPORT AND TRAINING	TechNet Benefits through SA - Access to evaluation and beta software, support and training. Available for all server, application and systems products with some advanced benefits only available on server licenses	✓	✓	✓	✓
	24x7 Problem Resolution Support - Business critical support by phone and Web. Available for all server, application and systems products	✓	✓	✓	✓
	System Center Advisor - A Microsoft cloud service that proactively scans a server environment to reduce server downtime. Available for qualifying server products as detailed in the Product List	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Planning Services - Partner services to build a plan to help deploy Microsoft technology. Packaged Services engagement days may be increased by converting unused Training Vouchers on a 3-to-1 basis. Available for application and server products			✓	✓
APPLICATION SERVER DEPLOYMENT	Cold Backups for Disaster Recovery - Additional licenses for servers used as offline ("cold") backups, to help recovery in case of a catastrophic event. Available for server products	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Step-Up Licenses - Rights to purchase a license to migrate from a Standard to an Enterprise edition of certain products. Available for relevant application and server products		✓	✓	✓
	Windows Virtual Desktop Access (VDA) - Rights to access a virtual desktop running in a datacenter. Available for systems products and Windows Intune	✓	✓	✓	✓
VIRTUALIZATION	Windows RT Companion VDA Rights - Rights for a primary user to access a virtual desktop running in a datacenter on a corporately owned companion device running Windows RT. Available for systems products and Windows Intune	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Windows Thin PC - Repurpose existing PCs as thin clients with a locked-down version of Windows 7 with a smaller footprint. Available for systems products and Windows Intune	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Office Roaming Use Rights - Remotely access Office, Project and Visio on third party devices while away from the office. Available for Office 2013, Project 2013 and Visio 2013	✓	✓	✓	✓
	License Mobility - Allows licenses to be reassigned between on-premise servers more frequently than every 90 days. Available for certain server applications specified in the Product Use Rights document	✓	✓	✓	✓
	License Mobility through SA - Enables deployment of licenses to service provider's shared hardware. Available for certain server applications specified in the Product Use Rights document	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Unlimited Virtualization Rights for SQL Server 2012 Enterprise - Rights to run unlimited virtual machines with SQL Server 2012 Enterprise edition if all the physical cores are licensed with SA. Available for SQL 2012 Enterprise Core Edition	✓	✓	✓	✓

Further Microsoft Licensing handouts and exams: GetLicensingReady.com