Enrollment for Core Infrastructure



Frequently Asked Questions

Microsoft Enrollment for Core Infrastructure Overview

What is the Enrollment for Core Infrastructure?

The Enrollment for Core Infrastructure (ECI) is a licensing program available under the Enterprise Agreement and offers a three-year term, Software Assurance and annual True-up. Customers use the ECI to purchase Core Infrastructure Server (CIS) Suites as well as other Microsoft products.

What products are available through ECI?

ECI lets you acquire and manage Microsoft's core infrastructure products under a single agreement. Based on your virtualization needs, you choose whether to license the Core Infrastructure Suite (CIS) Datacenter or Standard Edition, or a mix of both. These suites offers a cost-efficient way to license the Windows Server operating system, and Microsoft System Center server management together in a single processor-based license (see the table below for specific product release versions includes in either Suite).

What are the key licensing and packaging changes in ECI?

As part of the alignment of Microsoft's private cloud licensing model with the release of System Center 2012 the Enrollment for Core Infrastructure has the following licensing features:

- ▶ Each license is based on processor count.
- ▶ Each license covers up to two physical processors.
- ▶ Each edition (Standard and Datacenter) is differentiated based on their virtualization rights. A Standard Edition license entitles you to run and manage up to two virtual Operating System Environments (OSEs) on a given server (subject to the OSE use rights outlined in the Product Use Rights document), whereas a Datacenter Edition license will entitle you to run and manage an unlimited number of OSEs on a given server.

CIS Suite Datacenter	CIS Suite Standard	
Supports an unlimited number of virtual OSEs	Supports two virtual OSEs per license	
Windows Server Datacenter Edition	Windows Server Standard Edition	
System Center 2012 Datacenter Edition	System Center 2012 Standard Edition	

Is ECI available through both perpetual and subscription Enterprise Agreements?

Yes. ECI is available through the Enterprise Agreement and the Enterprise Subscription Agreement (EAS).

Is ECI available to public sector customers?

ECI is available to health and government customers. However, academic pricing is not available through ECI.

Who will benefit most from ECI?

- ▶ Enterprise customers who want to maximize their datacenter optimization through private cloud solutions.
- Customers seeking the following capabilities:
 - Automating deployment of operating system images to physical and virtual servers
 - Using virtualization as a tool for backup/recovery of systems
 - Having a Service Level Agreement (SLA) on recovery times defined for 80 percent or more of your servers
 - Consolidating server consolidation and reducing departmental sprawl
 - o Laying the foundation for a private cloud infrastructure

Program Benefits

What are the program benefits?

The Enrollment for Core Infrastructure (ECI) extends the value of the Enterprise Agreement by offering you a private cloud licensing solution that:

- Maximizes Cloud Value with unlimited virtualization rights to help you reduce software costs as your virtualization density grows.
- Simplifies licensing management with a processor based licensing model to deliver consistent cloud capabilities.
- Helps reduce licensing costs with a 20 percent savings as compared to purchasing product licenses individually.

By aligning the licensing for Windows Server and Microsoft System Center management together into a simplified, processor based licensing model, ECI helps you manage your licenses more easily, and spend less time and effort when upgrading or adding licenses as your virtualization requirements change.

What is the virtualization advantage with ECI?

Both ECI Suites offer virtualization use rights:

- A server running CIS Suite Datacenter can run, manage and protect an unlimited number of virtual OSEs.
- A server running CIS Suites Standard can run two virtualized OSEs per license. If you wish to run additional virtualized OSEs you may assign additional licenses to the server.

Program Details

What is included in each Core Infrastructure Server Suite?

- ▶ Windows Server 2012 builds on the award-winning foundation of Windows Server 2008, expanding existing technology and adding new features so that organizations can make their server infrastructure more reliable and flexible.
- System Center 2012 simplifies management of the data center using an integrated set of tools that automate server management and optimize the use of server and data center resources.

What are the program requirements for ECI?

Enrollments for Core Infrastructure program requirements include the following:

- Minimum Initial Purchase: 25 licenses. Each license covers up to 2 physical processors of an individual Suite or a combination of Core Infrastructure Server Suites Standard or Datacenter Editions with your initial purchase.
- Annual True-up: Orders are consolidated annually to account for additional deployments made during the year.
- Software Assurance: Software Assurance is required on all licenses under the three-year enrollment.
- ▶ Windows Server Client Access Licenses (CALs). To access the Core Infrastructure Server Suites, you need to acquire Windows Server CALs for your employees and/or External Connectors for business partners and customers. These can be acquired through the Enterprise Agreement, or Select Plus License Agreements as a standalone product, or through the Core CAL Suite or Enterprise CAL Suite.

How is purchasing the Core Infrastructure Server Suite licenses through ECI different from purchasing licenses for the underlying products separately?

Through the Core Infrastructure Server Suites, you license the products on a processor basis, which helps simplify licensing management. You can also save 20 percent from licensing the standalone products. With ECI, you'll get more flexibility because you can choose the right mix of Datacenter and Standard Suites. And you can upgrade your server suite licenses at any time.

In addition, products use rights associated with your ECI provide you with the added security of knowing exactly what the use rights are for the products you license under your Enrollment. For Core Infrastructure Products, if a new Product version has more restrictive use rights than the version that is current at the start of the applicable initial or renewal term of the Enrollment, those more restrictive use rights will not apply to your use of that Product during your Enrollment term. In other words, as an ECI customer you may exercise the product use rights that were in place at the time of your initial purchase, or if you prefer to do so, you may exercise newer use rights which Microsoft may modify following your original order.

What happens at the end of the ECI term?

If you are licensing the CIS Suites under a perpetual (non-subscription) EA, you will have rights to those Core Infrastructure Server Suite licenses and can renew Software Assurance on those licenses at the end of the ECI term. The product use rights associated with this offer will expire unless Software Assurance is renewed using the ECI (see products use rights description in previous question).

Note: the CIS Suite licenses remain Suites and cannot be decoupled or broken apart to be deployed on separate servers.

If you are licensing under a subscription EA, you will have the options available to you per the terms and conditions within the enrollment.

Do I still need to purchase Windows Server CALs when I purchase the Core Infrastructure Server Suites through ECI?

Yes, you must acquire CALs for the Windows Server that is provided as part of the Core Infrastructure Server Suites. These can be acquired through the Enterprise Agreement, or Select Plus License Agreements as a standalone product, or through the Core CAL Suite or Enterprise CAL Suite.

Do I still need to license Windows Server External Connectors?

Yes. As with Windows Server standalone license purchases, customers providing Windows Server access to their business partners or customers must either acquire Windows CALs for each external user or acquire External Connector licenses for each server licensed to run one or more instances of the Windows Server software that your external users accessed.

Once I have an ECI, do I have to purchase licenses for Windows Server and System Center together on the ECI, or can I license individual components on separate agreements like an EA or Select Plus?

The ECI is just one licensing option, so you can buy through ECI and still continue to purchase licenses for Windows Server and System Center through existing Volume Licensing options such as the Enterprise Enrollment (as Additional Products), ECI (as Additional Products) or Select Plus agreements.

Licensing Program Comparison

How can I get an Enrollment?

You can license products through an Enrollment for Core Infrastructure (ECI), an Enrollment for Application Platform (EAP), and/or an Enterprise Enrollment (EE) under an existing or new Enterprise Agreement, by contacting your Microsoft resell partner or Microsoft account manager.

How does the ECI differ from the EAP?

The Enrollments for Core Infrastructure and Enrollment for Application Platform are licensing program solutions for server and other products.

ECI is designed for customers who want to standardize their core infrastructure on the Windows Server operating system and Microsoft System Center server management products. It has a minimum initial purchase requirement and offers a price savings beyond licensing these products individually. The products are available in Standard and Datacenter Suites.

EAP is designed for customers who want to standardize on one or more of the Application Platform products—SQL Server, BizTalk Server, Microsoft Office SharePoint Server (no CALs), and Microsoft Visual Studio development system. EAP has a minimum initial purchase by product, offers a price savings on new deployments, and offers the flexibility to True up either annually or at the end of your three-year term.

What is the Microsoft Application Platform?

The Microsoft Application Platform is an integrated and interoperable set of mission-critical server infrastructure, applications, and tools that can help organizations reduce operations costs, improve business flexibility, and increase productivity for all—developers, users and administrators.

How does the ECI compare to the EE and EAP?

Below is a comparison between the EE, ECI, and EAP programs.

Licensing Program	Products	Program Mechanics	Price Savings
Enterprise Enrollment	 Microsoft CAL Suites Microsoft Office Windows Client Additional products 	 Yearly True-up Three-year term Cover all desktop PCs Additional Products (available) Ability to Transition from onpremises to equivalent Online Services Software Assurance required 	 15% on at least one component of the Desktop Platform Additional 15% on entire Desktop Platform Does not provide savings on Application Platform products
Enrollment for Application Platform	SQL ServerBizTalk ServerVisual StudioOffice SharePoint Server	 One- and three-year True-up options Minimum initial purchase Software Assurance required: o License and Software Assurance (L&SA) on all new licenses o Defer License cost for any units not currently covered by Software Assurance 	15% on Standard Edition and 40% on Premium Edition
Enrollment for Core Infrastructure	Datacenter and Standard server suites: • Windows Server • System Center	 Yearly True-up Three-year term Minimum initial purchase Choose from two Suites Processor based licensing Software Assurance required 	20% on all CIS Suites

Migration Scenarios

Can I migrate Windows Server licenses to the ECI at renewal or during the EA's three-year contract?

Customers with Software Assurance can migrate to the Enrollment for Core Infrastructure at renewal or during the term of their existing contract. If migrating mid-term, you will receive credit for the overlapping Windows Server Software Assurance.

- ▶ Windows Server Standard and Software Assurance can migrate to CIS Suite Standard
- Windows Server Enterprise and Software Assurance can to CIS Suite Standard
- Windows Server Datacenter and Software Assurance can migrate to CIS Suite Datacenter

Can I upgrade CIS Suite licenses to Premium Editions?

Yes. With ECI, you can step up your licenses to premium CIS Suite licenses, whether they are a mid-term or renewal migrations.

How to Purchase

How do I enroll in ECI?

To enroll in ECI, please contact your partner or Microsoft account manager.

Additional Resources

Where can I find information on the ECI and Microsoft Private Cloud?

- For information on the Enrollment for Core Infrastructure, visit http://www.microsoft.com/licensing/licensing-options/enrollments.aspx
- For more information on Microsoft Private Cloud, visit: http://www.microsoft.com/privatecloud

Where can I find additional information on Software Assurance?

Microsoft Software Assurance resources are available at http://www.microsoft.com/softwareassurance

Where can I find more information on the EAP?

Additional information on the Enrollment for Application Platform is available at http://www.microsoft.com/licensing/licensing-options/enrollments.aspx

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