

Ten changes to Microsoft Licensing that may impact your business

1. Microsoft introduced the “**Desktop Optimization Pack for Software Assurance**”. This is a desktop solution available exclusively to Windows OS Software Assurance customers at a steeply discounted price. It helps reduce application deployment costs, enable delivery of applications as services, and allows for better management and control of enterprise desktop environments.
2. Microsoft introduced the **Enterprise CAL**, which offers new functionality to improve communication, collaboration and compliance within your organization.
3. Microsoft also introduced the **Enterprise CAL Suite**. This includes the Core CAL Suite, plus seven Enterprise CALs. It is available as a Step-up option for existing Core CAL customers. And, as with Core CALs, if you require 2 or 3 Enterprise CALs, the Enterprise CAL Suite will be the most economical solution for your business. Under some licensing agreements, the Enterprise CAL Suite must be purchased for all desktops.
4. If you are a current Windows XP customer with Software Assurance, you have the option to migrate to **Vista Business, Enterprise, or Ultimate**. Vista Enterprise is available exclusively to Software Assurance customers.
5. With the launch of Office 2007, Microsoft is offering three different Office business suites: **Standard, Professional Plus and Enterprise**.
6. If you are a Software Assurance customer using Office Professional, you have the option to migrate to **Office Professional Plus**. In addition, a Step-up option is available to Office Enterprise, which is available exclusively through volume licensing.
7. Unlike previous Open Value Company-wide Agreements, you will have the option to deploy a mix of **Office Suites** throughout your organization.
8. The Exchange Server CAL will no longer include Outlook. Outlook is offered in the **Office Business Suite** or as a stand-alone application.
9. Office Live Communication Server (LCS) will now be called **Office Communication Server**. The Office Communications CAL no longer includes Office Communicator. Office Communicator is offered in the Office Enterprise Suite or as a stand-alone application.
10. The Windows Vista Enterprise Operating System now includes the **Multi-User Language Interface (MUI)**. Previously, MUI was only available as a higher-priced OS license.

This is just a brief glimpse of the changes to Microsoft licensing. We understand licensing can be confusing. Your Softmart Account team is qualified and ready to make IT easy.

