

Microsoft Enrollment for Core Infrastructure

Frequently Asked Questions

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Microsoft Enrollment for Core Infrastructure Overview

What is Core Infrastructure Optimization?

An optimized datacenter delivers services that are more efficient, more reliable, and more closely aligned to the changing needs of your business. Microsoft has a set of products and technologies that can help you optimize your datacenter and get more value out of your existing datacenter resources. These products and technologies are now offered together through Core Infrastructure Server Suites, available only through the Enrollment for Core Infrastructure. The Core Infrastructure Server Suites license the operating system, server management, and server protection you need to deliver more efficient, reliable, and flexible datacenter services.

What is the Enrollment for Core Infrastructure?

The Enrollment for Core Infrastructure (ECI) is an enrollment on the Enterprise Agreement; and offers a 3 year term, Software Assurance, and annual true-ups. Customers use the ECI to purchase the Core Infrastructure Server (CIS) Suites; the Suites are the only products allowed on the ECI.

What products are available through the ECI?

The Core Infrastructure Server Suites help you easily acquire the foundation for a protected, well-managed IT infrastructure. These suites offers a cost-efficient way to license the Windows® Server operating system, Microsoft® System Center server management, and Microsoft Forefront™ Client Security together in a single per-processor license. You can choose the combination of Suites that suits the workloads and environment of your IT infrastructure. The products included in each CIS Suite are as follows (see the Product List for particular release versions):

CIS Suite Datacenter Supports an unlimited number of virtualized instances and has a two-processor per server minimum	CIS Suite Enterprise Supports up to four instances on a two-processor server (two-processor minimum per server)	CIS Suite Standard Supports one virtualized instance per processor
Windows Server Datacenter	Windows Server Enterprise	Windows Server Standard
System Center SMSD	System Center SMSE	System Center OpsMgr Std ML System Center ConfigMgr Std ML System Center DPM Std ML
Forefront Client Security	Forefront Client Security	Forefront Client Security
System Center management server licenses including: OpsMgr, ConfigMgr, DPM, VMM, SvcMgr FCS Management Console*	System Center management server licenses including: OpsMgr, ConfigMgr, DPM, VMM, SvcMgr FCS Management Console*	System Center management server licenses including: OpsMgr, ConfigMgr, DPM FCS Management Console*

*as of October 1st 2010

Do I have to license all of the products in the CIS Suites?

Yes. The Core Infrastructure Server Suites come with all of the products in each Suite.

Is ECI available through both the perpetual and subscription Enterprise Agreement?

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.

When is the ECI available?

As of October 1, 2009, the ECI is available both direct from Microsoft and indirect from a Large Account Reseller (LAR) or Enterprise Software Advisor (ESA).

Who will benefit most from the ECI?

- ECI is for enterprise customers want to optimize their datacenter. ECI is a good fit for customers who currently have Windows Server with Software Assurance, but may or may not have an existing Microsoft Enterprise Agreement. Customers seeking to increase their IT maturity and the following capabilities will benefit from the products licensed in the CIS Suites. Automated deployment of operating system images to physical and virtual servers
- Using virtualization as a tool for backup/recovery of systems

- A Service Level Agreement (SLA) on recovery times defined for 80 percent or more of your servers
- Server consolidation and reducing departmental sprawl
- Laying the foundation for an on-premises cloud infrastructure

Program Benefits

What are the program benefits?

The Enrollment for Core Infrastructure is the most cost-efficient way to standardize on the core infrastructure server suite across your organization. You can manage your core infrastructure server investments using a single enrollment. In addition to the benefits you receive through the Enterprise Agreement, you will also get:

- **Simplified licensing.** By licensing these suites per processor, you can manage your licenses more easily and spend less time and effort ensuring that your data center is license-compliant. Having all of the suites managed in a per-processor mode means that it is much easier to purchase the Datacenter or Enterprise suites as your virtualization requirements change.
- **Cost Savings.** You save 20 percent compared to purchasing the product licenses individually.
- **Greater flexibility.** Select the combination and quantity of the three suites needed to meet the needs in your IT environment, and upgrade the licenses gradually to meet your organization's changing needs.

What are the benefits of licensing multiple products together on a per-processor basis?

Licensing the operating system, management, and security products together on a per-processor basis can simplify licensing. The underlying products are usually licensed as stand-alone products using per-processor, per-server, and per-device/subscription licensing models. Because ECI's Core Infrastructure Server Suites always offer per-processor licensing, licensing with the ECI is simple. It reduces the time and effort customers spend on licensing, can increase compliance, and can make it easier to plan for license upgrades.

What is the virtualization advantage with ECI?

Managing virtualization licensing can be very complicated. In a world where an operating environment can be created with a click of the mouse, IT managers can inadvertently create licensing compliance issues.

With ECI, you'll benefit from a cost advantage as well as easier license management. By making all of the licenses per-processor, IT managers only need to remember "1-4-unlimited."

- A two-or-more processor server running CIS Suite Datacenter can run, manage, and protect an unlimited number of instances.
- A two-processor server running CIS Suite Enterprise can run four virtualized instances.

- A one-processor server running CIS Suites Standard can run one virtualized instance.

Having all of the suites managed in a per-processor mode means that it is much easier to upgrade to more premium suites as virtualization needs increase.

Program Details

What is included in each Core Infrastructure Server Suite?

- **Windows Server 2008 R2** 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** 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. All CIS Suites include the following:
 - Management of the parent operating system on a virtualized server
 - Licensing rights to run the System Center consoles
- **Forefront Client Security** provides customers using the CIS Suites a unified, multilayered, and highly manageable approach to protecting their servers from viruses, spyware, rootkits, and other malware.
 - Licensing rights to run the Forefront Client Security Management console

Core Infrastructure Server Suite	Virtual Instances licensed, managed, and protected	Windows Server Edition included	System Center Management Licenses (ML included) and Management Consoles						Forefront Client Security Device Subscription and Management Console
			Operations Manager	Data Protection Manager	Configuration Manager	Virtual Machine Manager	Service Manager	Opalis	
Datacenter (2+ processors)	Unlimited	Datacenter	Enterprise ML						Included
Enterprise (2 processors)	4	Enterprise							Included
Standard (1 processor)	1	Standard	Standard ML			Not Included			Included

What are the program requirements for ECI?

- **Minimum initial purchase.** Acquire 50 processors or more of one or a combination of Core Infrastructure Server Suites Standard, Enterprise, or Datacenter with your initial purchase. The Core

Infrastructure Server Suites Enterprise and Datacenter can only be licensed on servers with two or more processors.

- **Annual True up.** Consolidate orders annually to account for additional deployments during the year.
- **Software Assurance.** Software Assurance is required on all licenses under the three-year enrollment.

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 per-processor, which makes licensing simple and easier to stay compliant. You can also save 20 percent from licensing the stand-alone products. With ECI, you'll get more flexibility because you can choose the right mix of Datacenter, Enterprise, and Standard Suites. And you can upgrade your server suite licenses at any time.

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 special use rights associated with this offer will expire unless Software Assurance is renewed using the ECI. 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.

Is ECI a perpetual or subscription-based agreement?

The ECI can license the CIS Suites under a perpetual Enterprise Agreement or under a subscription EA. If the customer is licensing the Suites under a perpetual (non-subscription) EA, the customer will have rights to those Core Infrastructure Server Suite licenses. Note that they remain Suites and cannot be decoupled or broken apart to be deployed on separate servers.

If a customer is licensing under a subscription EA, they will have the options available to them 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. You can purchase your Windows Server CALs as a standalone product through the desktop enrollment or as part of the Core or Enterprise CAL Suites. You can choose to license through an EA, Microsoft Select Plus, or Microsoft Select License.

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 2008 software that your external users accessed.

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

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

Licensing Program Comparison

Why did Microsoft create these enrollments?

Starting in October 2009, Microsoft extended the value of the Enterprise Agreement to support software innovation and to better reflect how customers purchase, by making new offers available through new enrollments on the Microsoft Enterprise Agreement (EA).

These offers can be licensed under the EA through the Enrollment for Core Infrastructure and Enrollment for Application Platform. While you need to sign an EA to create these new enrollments, you do not need an Enterprise Enrollment for Desktop to qualify.

How can I license these new enrollments?

Customers can license the Enrollment for Core Infrastructure (ECI) through the EA or EAS as an enrollment. Customers can license the Enrollment for Application Platform (EAP) through the EA as an enrollment.

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 is ECI different from other Microsoft Volume Licensing programs?

ECI is part of the Enterprise Agreement, although an Enterprise Enrollment for Desktop is not required.

ECI is similar to the Enterprise Enrollment for Desktop EA because it requires Software Assurance, provides a financial incentive for increased commitment, and offers annual True ups.

It is different from an EA in that it has a minimum purchase requirement and has been specifically created for purchasing licenses for the Core Infrastructure Server Suites—Datacenter, Enterprise, and Standard.

How does the ECI differ from the EAP?

The Enrollments for Core Infrastructure and Application Platform are packaged solutions for the server platform that can be purchased through the EA as an enrollment.

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

How does the ECI compare to the EA and EAP?

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

Licensing Program	Products	Program Mechanics	Price Savings
EA Enrollment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Microsoft CAL Suites Microsoft Office Windows® Client Additional products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yearly True-up Three-year term Cover all desktop PCs Additional products (available) Software Assurance required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SQL Server BizTalk Server Visual Studio Office SharePoint Server 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One- and three-year options Minimum initial purchase required Software Assurance required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> License and Software Assurance (L&SA) on all new licenses Defer License cost for any units not currently covered by Software Assurance Desktop EA not required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15% on Standard Edition and 40% on Premium Edition
Enrollment for Core Infrastructure	Datacenter, Enterprise, and Standard server suites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Windows Server System Center Forefront Client Security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yearly True-up Three-year term Minimum initial purchase required Choose from three Suites Per-processor licensing Software Assurance required Desktop EA not required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20% on all CIS Suites

Migration Scenarios

Can I migrate our Windows Server licenses to the ECI at renewal or during the EA 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 purchase licenses for migration stock-keeping units (SKUs) to CIS Suite Standard
- Windows Server Enterprise and Software Assurance can migrate to CIS Suite Enterprise
- 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 migration.

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 Core Infrastructure Optimization?

- For information on the Enrollment for Core Infrastructure, visit www.microsoft.com/licensing.
- For more information on Core Infrastructure Optimization, visit <http://www.microsoft.com/infrastructure/default.aspx>.

Where can I find additional information on Software Assurance?

- Microsoft Software Assurance resources are available at <http://www.microsoft.com/licensing/software-assurance/default.aspx>.

Where can I find more information on the EAP and the Application Platform?

- Additional information on the Enrollment for Application Platform is available at www.microsoft.com/licensing.
- For more information on the Application Platform, visit <http://www.microsoft.com/applicationplatform/>.

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