

Compliance in the cloud

As organizations move to the cloud there is some licensing simplification as they will typically buy Subscription Licenses for users and pay for services on a consumption basis. This handout gives an overview of some of the points to check to ensure organizations remain compliant in the cloud. Some key questions, with examples, are detailed below:

Do you have the correct underlying licenses in place for your User SLs?

Office 365 E3 Add-on User SL: gives a named user access to Office 365 E3

Pre-requisites: Software Assurance on both Office Professional Plus 2021 and Core or Enterprise CAL Suite licenses

Check: link the Add-on User SLs with underlying device/user licenses, and ensure Software Assurance is maintained on those underlying licenses

Windows 11 Enterprise E3/E5 User Subscription License

Pre-requisites: a Qualifying Operating System license is required, such that the software may only be installed locally on a device which is already licensed with a Windows 8/8.1 or 10/11 Pro or Enterprise license

Check: make sure that every device a user intends to install Windows 11 Enterprise E3/E5 on is already licensed with a Qualifying Operating System

Do you meet the eligibility criteria for the Subscription Licenses you have?

Microsoft 365 E3 from SA User SL: gives a user access to the Microsoft 365 E3 services, and is aimed at organizations wanting to move to the cloud from a traditional on-premises licensing position

Eligibility: a customer must have paid for Office Professional Plus, Windows and Core/Enterprise CAL Suite licenses for three years before they are eligible to purchase From SA licenses

Student Use Benefit licenses: licenses for students available free of charge to eligible customers

Eligibility: an education customer must have purchased a qualifying license for all staff and faculty users before they may buy corresponding Student Use Benefit licenses

Check: some User SLs are at a special price point and if you purchase these, make sure you know the eligibility criteria



Have you assumed use rights are the same for on-premises and cloud deployments?

The same product licensed in an on-premises data center and in Azure does not necessarily have the same licensing requirements



Windows Server on-premises virtual machines: users/devices licensed with CALS
 Azure Windows Server virtual machines: no CALS required



Check: track which users access which Windows Server virtual machines and that all users have the right licenses assigned to them

Have you assumed use rights are the same for User SLs purchased through different channels?

Windows 11 Enterprise E3/E5 User SLs:

The same User SL can convey different use rights dependent on how it was purchased

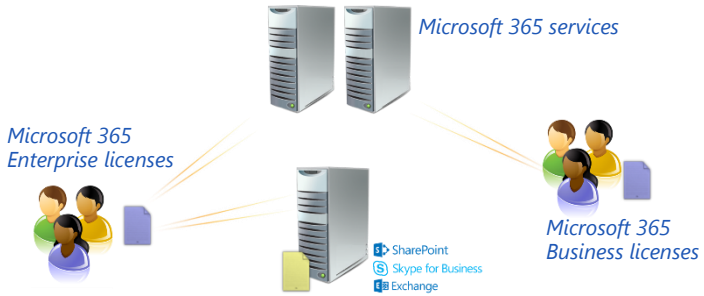
Check: track how licenses are purchased, and their use rights, and ensure that you are not inadvertently assuming use rights you don't have

| | Enterprise Agreement | Cloud Solution Provider program |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Number of installations | Unlimited | 5 |
| Downgrade rights | ✓ | |
| Semi-Annual Channel | ✓ | ✓ |
| Long term Servicing Channel | ✓ | |
| Local installation | ✓ | ✓ |
| Support for virtual machines | VDI via customer infrastructure, Azure, or QMTH partner. Use of Azure Virtual Desktop service | VDI via Azure or QMTH partner. Use of Azure Virtual Desktop service |
| SA benefits: Windows To Go rights, additional MDOP tools | ✓ | |
| Re-imaging rights | ✓ | |

Do your User SLs give access to equivalent on-premises servers?

On premises servers: Exchange, SharePoint, Skype for Business Server

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Microsoft 365 E3, E5 | ✓ |
| Microsoft 365 Business plans | ✗ |



Check: ascertain whether or not User SLs give dual access rights to equivalent on-premises servers

Do your Subscription Licenses allow you to install equivalent on-premises server software?

Dynamics 365 CRM app User SLs

Rights: install the Dynamics 365 Server on-premises product as many times as required – in physical or virtual infrastructures – on **any servers** used by the customer, including shared servers managed by service providers

Eligibility: the User SLs may be purchased through any program – for example an Enterprise Agreement or the Cloud Solution Provider program, but must be enterprise versions of the apps

Microsoft 365 E3 and E5 User SLs

Rights: install the Exchange Server, Skype for Business Server, and SharePoint Server products as many times as required – in physical or virtual infrastructures – on servers **dedicated to the customer**, either on-premises or managed by an Authorized Outsourcer

Eligibility: the User SLs must be purchased through an Enterprise Agreement for these rights. There are no on-premises server installation rights for User SLs acquired through the Cloud Solution Provider program

Check: ascertain whether or not User SLs give rights to install on-premises server software

Have you assumed similar products have similar use rights?

Products that offer similar functionality may not have exactly the same use rights. For example, Microsoft 365 Apps for enterprise and Microsoft 365 Apps for business licenses both allow the installation of the familiar Office products. However, only the Microsoft 365 Apps for enterprise license allows deployment in a Shared Computer Activation scenario:



Check: make sure that a particular deployment scenario is supported for the specific licenses that have been purchased

Are your users sharing credentials?

User Subscription Licenses are named user licenses and there's no scope for having a generic user ID which multiple people use simultaneously

Microsoft 365 Apps installation rights

- Microsoft 365 Apps licenses allow 5 installations on PCs for the use of the user to whom the license has been assigned
- The licensed user may not allow other unlicensed users to avail of these installation rights

Check: educate employees in the benefits and rules of multiple installations. It is not appropriate or legal to share their business credentials with other people to use a "spare" installation

Are your users licensed for consumer cloud apps?

Microsoft 365 Personal or Family plans:

users may already be licensed with these plans for their personal devices. There are **no commercial use rights** granted with these licenses and so this not a compliant position

Check: if you want your users to use cloud services for the purposes of your business, then you need to acquire licenses through the business



Do your on-premises server licenses give any rights in the cloud?

Azure Hybrid Benefit: allows an organization to assign Windows Server or SQL Server licenses to an on-premises deployment or to virtual machines running in Azure

Eligibility: active Software Assurance on Windows Server or SQL Server licenses, or Server Subscriptions for Windows Server or SQL Server acquired through CSP

Check: make sure that processes are in place to ensure that all on-premises and Azure Windows or SQL Server virtual machines have appropriate licenses assigned to them