

Licensing SQL Server 2022 on-premises

Available SQL Server 2022 editions



Express

Free, entry-level database for building desktop and small server data-driven applications



Standard

Basic data management and business intelligence database for departments and small organizations



Enterprise

Comprehensive high-end data center capabilities enabling high service levels for mission critical workloads



Developer

Free to use with all the features of Enterprise edition, specifically for dev/test in non-production environments

SQL Server 2022 licensing models

Core licensing

Rules for calculating required licenses:

- Count the number of cores in the server
- Buy that number of Core licenses, as long as a minimum of 4 licenses are acquired per processor
- No CALs are required for internal or external users
- Core licenses are acquired in 2-packs



Licensing SQL Server editions

- Standard edition may be licensed with either of the licensing models
- Enterprise edition is licensed with Core licenses

Server/CAL licensing

Purchase a SQL Server license for each server, and then purchase Client Access Licenses (CALs) for either users or devices:



*A **Device CAL** is assigned to the device and allows multiple users to use that device*



*A **User CAL** is assigned to the user and allows that user to use multiple devices*



For both types of CAL, the users or devices are licensed to access ANY SQL Server on the network. The SQL CALs can also be used against any SQL Server regardless of platform or edition.

Note that even if a user accesses SQL indirectly through another server (for example when using a Line of Business application), a CAL is still required. This is often known as multiplexing.

External users may be licensed with User or Device CALs or via Core licenses.

Downgrade and down-edition rights

Customers can choose to deploy an earlier version and, sometimes, an alternative edition:

Customers licensed for:

Can choose to deploy:

	Software edition	Software version
SQL Server 2022 Standard	Standard	2022 or earlier
SQL Server 2022 Enterprise	Standard Enterprise Business Intelligence	2022 or earlier 2022 or earlier 2014 or earlier

Note that additional down-edition rights are available for some further editions of SQL Server 2008 R2 which are now out of support.

On-premises failover licensing scenarios

For each on-premises server licensed with SQL Server 2022 and covered by active SA, organizations can use the following passive replicas in anticipation of a failover event:







*High Availability
(automated failover)*



*Disaster Recovery
(manual failover)*

Note that the passive servers must have the same or fewer cores than the active server.

Licensing SQL 2022 for virtualization and containers

Server/CAL editions	Core editions	SQL 2022 Enterprise Core virtualization rights	Unlimited virtualization
 <p>SQL Standard Server licenses</p>	 <p>SQL Standard or Enterprise Core licenses</p>	 <p>SQL Enterprise Core licenses</p>	 <p>SQL Enterprise Core licenses with SA</p>
Assign a SQL Server 2022 Server license to each virtual machine or container running SQL Server 2022	License the virtual cores used by the virtual machines, with a minimum of 4 Core licenses with Software Assurance per virtual machine or container	Licensing all the physical cores gives rights to run SQL Server in one virtual machine or container per Core license	License all the physical cores with Enterprise Edition Core licenses with Software Assurance

License Mobility

All SQL Server 2022 licenses purchased with Software Assurance have License Mobility across Server Farms rights.



In the diagram above, two Server licenses with Software Assurance have been purchased and the virtual machines may move freely around the server farm and the licenses can be considered to be dynamically reassigned to the relevant physical server.

License Mobility across Server Farms

allows licenses to be moved between servers within a server farm as often as required, supporting a virtualized environment where virtual machines frequently move between physical servers.

Licensing SQL components

SQL Server includes services such as Microsoft® SQL Server® Reporting Services and Microsoft® SQL Server® Analysis Services which are key to the Microsoft Business Intelligence solution.

When SQL Server runs with all of its components in one server, only one license is required.

However, if the database is running in one server, Analysis Services on a second, and Reporting Services on a third, then three licenses are required.



Additional SQL 2022 SA benefits

Step-up licenses

- Step-up licenses may be purchased for Standard Core licenses with SA to move to Enterprise Core licenses

Power BI Report Server

- Enterprise Core licenses with SA include the rights to run Power BI Report Server on a licensed server to generate data visualizations

Software Subscriptions

- 1- or 3-year Software Subscriptions are available through CSP for SQL Server 2022 Standard and Enterprise Core licenses
- They entitle customers to the same benefits as a Software Assurance customer, with the exception of the License Mobility through SA benefit