Brief

Licensing Microsoft® Software for System Center Server Management Suite Enterprise and Server Management Suite Datacenter

 February 2010

**Corporate, Government, Academic, and Open License/Select License/Enterprise Agreement-based**

**Volume Licensing Programs**

# Summary

This licensing brief explains the use rights of the Microsoft® System Center Server Management Suite Datacenter (SMSD), introduced in July 2009, and the updated use rights for the Microsoft System Center Server Management Suite Enterprise (SMSE). In addition, we provide information about the SMSE to SMSD migration license grant, the promotion related to this transition, and answers to frequently asked questions.

**What’s New in this Brief**

This is a new brief with no previous versions.

**Details**

Changes to the SMSE License

Effective July 1, 2009 the SMSE license allows for the management of up to four operating system environments (OSEs). Prior to July 1, 2009, Microsoft offered the SMSE license as an option for managing any number of OSEs on a device using System Center Configuration Manager (Config Manager), System Center Operations Manager (Ops Manager), System Center Data Protection Manager (DPM), and System Center Virtualization Machine Manager (VMM).

The SMSE license allows you to manage up to four OSEs on the licensed device. If you are using the physical OSE solely to run hardware virtualization software, provide hardware virtualization services, and run software to manage and service operating system environments on that device, the SMSE allows you to manage the physical OSE plus four virtual OSEs on the licensed device..

These use rights apply to using the SMSE license with versions of System Center products released on or after July 1, 2009. For earlier product versions, you can continue to manage OSEs on the licensed device as defined in the Product Use Rights (PUR) for those products. For example, Operations Manager 2007 R2 was released in July 2009, which means new SMSE use rights are in effect for that version of the product.

Introduction of the SMSD License

SMSD is a suite of System Center server management licenses that became available July 1, 2009. Once a device is licensed with SMSD, you can manage any number of OSEs on that device. The SMSD includes the same server management licenses as the SMSE (Config Manager, Ops Manager, DPM, and VMM).

To license a server device and manage it with SMSD, you need one SMSD license for each physical processor the device has. A minimum of two SMSD licenses are necessary to license a server device with SMSD. For example, server devices with only one processor still require two SMSD licenses. Each physical processor counts as a single processor, regardless of the number of cores and/or threads that the processor contains. For example, four SMSD licenses are required for a four-processor device, whether the device contains single-core, hyperthreaded, or multicore processors.

Migration Grant and Promotion

In connection with the changes to SMSE licensing and introduction of the SMSD, we are extending two offers, as described below, to ensure a smooth transition.

**SMSD license grant to customers with Software Assurance coverage for SMSE licenses**

Customers with active Microsoft Software Assurance on SMSE licenses as of July 1, 2009 have been granted a set of four SMSD licenses for each SMSE license they own. These granted SMSD licenses include Software Assurance coverage through the end of the term of coverage for the qualifying SMSE licenses.

Each set of four granted SMSD licenses must be kept together and assigned to a single device. They may be reassigned as a set, but not within 90 days from the last assignment per standard Volume Licensing rules. Customers can waive the requirement that you assign a given set of granted licenses to a single device by purchasing Software Assurance coverage for two SMSD licenses within that set of four SMSD licenses. Customers can do so before the first SMSE Software Assurance renewal.

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| **SMSE / SMSD License Renewal Options Prior to July 1, 2011**Customers renewing Software Assurance coverage before July 1st, 2011 have three options. Customers may renew each license under a different option based on your specific licensing needs.  |
| **Renewal Option** | **Benefits** | **Usage Scenario** |
| Renew SMSE licenses. | * Lower Software Assurance costs as compared to renewing the granted SMSD licenses, enabling the management of the physical server and up to four OSEs per SMSE license.
 | For those managing physical or low-density virtualized servers. |
| Renew two of the four SMSD licenses: Renew Software Assurance on two SMSD licenses, maintaining the rights to the set of four granted SMSD licenses. In this case, SMSD licenses remain subject to the requirement that the set of four granted licenses be kept together and assigned to a single device. | * Lower Software Assurance costs as compared to renewing Software Assurance on all four granted SMSD licenses.
* Customer is licensed with SMSD for server devices with up to four processors.
 | For those who want to manage:* Virtualized four-processor servers with more than four virtual machine guests.
* Virtualized two-processor servers with more than four virtual machine guests where the customer is not increasing the number of servers they manage.
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| Renew all four SMSD:Renew Software Assurance on all four SMSD licenses. | * SMSD licenses may be separated and assigned to distinct devices.
 | For those who want to manage:* Existing virtualized two-processor servers with more than four virtual machine guests and new virtualized two-processor servers with more than four virtual machine guests.
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For details on this grant, please refer to the July 2009 Product List and contact your reseller.

**Product List promotion for new SMSD Licenses**

Customers managing servers with four processors or more may be eligible for a promotion that reduces their cost to license those servers with SMSD. For example, a customer with a four-processor server may be fully licensed for SMSD at the cost of two SMSD licenses.

For details on this promotion please refer to the July 2009 Product List and contact your reseller.

**Frequently Asked Questions**

1. **Does the SMSD license permit me to manage OSEs using the same System Center products as the SMSE?**

Yes. Both SMSE and SMSD permit management of OSEs using Config Manager, Ops Manager, DPM, and VMM.

1. **If I am purchasing licenses for SMSD, do I need a license for each physical processor on the server device?**

Yes. If you license a server device with SMSD to manage any OSE or workload, you need to assign one SMSD license for every physical processor on that server device.

1. **Does the server management suite license edition need to be the same as the Windows Server operating system edition running in the OSE being managed? For example, if I have Windows Server Enterprise, do I have to purchase a license for the Enterprise edition of the server management suite (SMSE)?**

No. The server management suite edition does not need to match the edition of the Windows Server operating system running in the OSE. For example, if you license a device with SMSD, you can manage both the OSEs running Windows Server Enterprise and OSEs running Windows Server Datacenter. You may also manage OSEs running non-Windows Server instances.

1. **How do I document my right to the granted SMSD licenses?**

Your right to use the software under the complimentary SMSD licenses is evidenced by the product condition note in the July 2009 Product List and evidence of your corresponding qualifying licenses (SMSE with Software Assurance coverage).

1. **Is there a way to waive the requirement that each set of four granted SMSD licenses must be assigned to a single-server device?**

For each set of four granted SMSD licenses, you may acquire Software Assurance on two of the granted SMSD licenses before your first renewal to remove that requirement. Renewing Software Assurance on all four granted SMSD licenses also removes the requirement that the set of four granted SMSD licenses be assigned to a single-server device.

1. **If I own 200 SMSE licenses with active Software Assurance as of July 1, 2009, do I receive 800 SMSD licenses?**

Yes, that is correct. Please note that the SMSD licenses are granted in sets of four, resulting in the ability to license 200 server devices via the grant.

**6.1** **Can I license more than 200 server devices with the granted SMSD licenses?**

Yes. If you remove the requirement that each set of four granted SMSD licenses be assigned to a single-server device, you may license up to 400 server devices with the granted SMSD licenses. The SMSD requires at least two SMSD licenses be assigned to each server device, even if the server only has one processor.

1. **If I am licensing server devices with the granted SMSD licenses, can I still license server devices with my original SMSE license?**

No. The management rights associated with the complimentary SMSD licenses are granted in place of the management rights associated with the qualifying SMSE license. On the assignment of the granted SMSD licenses, you forfeit its management rights under the corresponding SMSE license.

1. **Is the grant automatic or do I need to opt in?**

The grant is automatic. However, you can keep the original acquired SMSE licenses if you want them. For that, on the first renewal after this grant, you may renew Software Assurance only on the original SMSE licenses. On renewal of the original SMSE license, you forfeit the rights to the set of four complimentary SMSD licenses. Until then, you may use either the qualifying SMSE licenses or the complimentary SMSD licenses.

1. **What is the promotional grant offer for new SMSD licenses?**

Customers purchasing SMSD licenses to cover the management of servers with a minimum of four physical processors are eligible for a promotion that reduces the cost of licensing these servers with the SMSD. Complete details are available in the July 2009 Product List. [[1]](#footnote-1)

1. **How do I acquire licenses under the SMSD promotion?**

This is a worldwide promotion handled via the Product List. You will receive one complimentary SMSD license for each SMSD license acquired (the offer is only valid if you cover the management of servers with a minimum of four physical processors). Your right to use the software under the complimentary SMSD licenses is evidenced by the product condition note in the July 2009 Product List and evidence of your corresponding qualifying (SMSD acquired during the promotion period) licenses.

1. **Is there any consideration when applying the grant or promotion to subscription programs?**

Yes. If you license SMSE and/or SMSD through subscription programs, you are eligible for both the SMSE Grant and SMSD Promotion.

* SMSE Grant: If you have active SMSE licenses acquired through a subscription program prior to the SMSE Grant, you have the right to a set of four SMSD subscription licenses for each SMSE license you have. Prior to July, 1, 2011, you may renew two of the four SMSD licenses and keep the right to the set of four granted SMSD licenses. If you choose to buy out your licenses at the end of your agreement, you are eligible to buy the SMSE license and receive the grant of four SMSD licenses.
* SMSD Promotion: If you license SMSD for servers with four or more processors under the promotion and your agreement is up for renewal before July 1, 2011, you can renew the originally acquired SMSD license and keep the right to the complimentary SMSD licenses for the renewal term of your originally acquired licenses. If you choose to buy out your licenses at the end of your agreement, you may buy out the originally acquired SMSD license and also receive the complimentary SMSD license at no additional charge.
1. *NOTE: Actual prices and payment terms may vary.  Final prices and payment terms for licenses acquired through resellers are determined by agreement between the customer and its reseller.* [↑](#footnote-ref-1)