Brief

**Multi-Lingual User Interface (MUI) Language Packs for Windows Vista January 2008**

Open License ♦ Open License Value ♦ Select License ♦ Academic Select ♦ Enterprise Agreement
Software Assurance ♦ Campus Agreement ♦ School Agreement

**Summary**

This brief provides details about licensing requirements for the Multi-Lingual User Interface (MUI) language pack available for the Windows Vista® operating system.

**What’s New in this Brief**

This is a new licensing brief with no prior versions.

**Availability of MUI for Volume Licensing Customers**

MUI is a feature of Windows Vista Enterprise that helps in creating and deploying a single desktop PC operating system (OS) image with up to 36 languages. With MUI, end users can also switch the Windows® user interface between multiple languages on a single PC.

Windows Vista Enterprise is only available for PCs covered by Software Assurance or by an Enterprise Agreement (EA). Prior to November 2006, Microsoft offered a multilingual stock-keeping unit (SKU) of the Windows XP operating system that included access to MUI language packs. This SKU was available with Volume Licensing agreements at an additional charge. With the release of Windows Vista, this SKU is no longer available. Customers who want MUI functionality for Windows XP must cover those PCs with a Microsoft Software Assurance agreement that provides downgrade rights to use MUI on Windows XP.

**Use of MUI Language Packs by Original Equipment Manufacturers**

Original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) use MUI language packs in their manufacturing process, and some PCs that OEMs sold include MUI packs on the installation image and/or recovery disk media. In these cases, the first time Windows is run on the PC, the user is prompted to go through the Out-of-Box Experience (OOBE) setup wizard and select the language they want to use. Once the OOBE wizard is completed, all additional language packs are deleted from the PC. This capability is only permitted in the following cases:

* The image is created using OEM-media supplied to the OEM by Microsoft.
* The image is created using Windows Volume Licensing media, and the PC is covered by Software Assurance.

The OEM may not apply MUI language packs to Volume Licensing media images on PCs not covered by Software Assurance. In addition, products purchased from an OEM that include MUI language packs do not give the user the ability to use the MUI packs on additional PCs or to use MUI language packs on Volume License media used to re-image that PC or any other PC. Also, the OEM recovery media may not be modified by the customer and used as the basis for an organization’s standard image, which they update and maintain.

**FAQ**

**What MUI language packs are available for Windows Vista Enterprise?**MUI language packs are available for all 36 languages offered for Windows Vista.

* Arabic
* Brazilian Portuguese
* Bulgarian
* Chinese (Simplified)
* Chinese (Traditional)
* Chinese (Traditional [for Hong Kong])
* Croatian
* Czech
* Danish
* Dutch
* English
* Estonian
* Finnish
* French
* German
* Greek
* Hebrew
* Hungarian
* Italian
* Japanese
* Korean
* Latvian
* Lithuanian
* Norwegian (Bokmål)
* Polish
* Portuguese
* Romanian
* Russian
* Serbian (Latin)
* Slovak
* Slovenian
* Spanish
* Swedish
* Thai
* Turkish
* Ukrainian

**Where can I download MUI packs for Windows Vista?**

Windows XP language packs are available on the Microsoft Volume Licensing Site <https://licensing.microsoft.com>.

**I am still deploying PCs with Windows XP. How do I obtain Windows XP MUI packs for those new PCs?**
For PCs that are covered by Software Assurance, you can take advantage of the Volume Licensing downgrade rights to use Windows XP language packs.

**If I do not have Software Assurance and am not interested in language-switching functionality, can I use MUI language packs to configure a Windows Vista Business image and to delete extra languages after setup?**

No. You can only apply language packs to Windows Vista Enterprise images, Windows XP-based computers that are covered by Software Assurance, or Windows XP images for computers that were already covered by an MUI license.

**If I am not using MUI, can I combine OS images of multiple languages (for example, English, French, and German) into a single Windows Imaging Format (WIM) file?**

If you are using Windows Vista Enterprise, you can combine images of multiple OS languages into a single WIM image file and apply MUI language packs. If you are using Windows Vista Business, all images included in a single WIM must use the same OS language.

**What are my options if I do not have Software Assurance?**

Volume License customers may deploy any OS language for which they have a license. Since MUI packs are not available without Software Assurance, you will need to maintain separate OS installation images for each Windows language. Consumers and small businesses that require multilanguage switching capabilities can obtain Windows Vista Ultimate pre-installed on a new PC or as a retail Full Packaged Product (FPP). OEMs can also enable language switching by installing multiple copies of Windows Vista on the PC in a dual-boot configuration. In this scenario, a separate Windows Certificate of Authenticity (COA) must be acquired for each language of Windows Vista installed.

**Do the above policies apply to Language Interface Packs?**

You can download Language Interface Packs (LIPs) from the Microsoft.com Web site and apply them to any genuine copy of Windows. Language Interface Packs are partially localized language packs for emerging or minority language markets where a fully localized version of Windows is not available. Learn more at [www.microsoft.com/locallanguage](http://www.microsoft.com/locallanguage).

**Where can I learn more about MUI?**

For additional information about MUI, visit:

* [Guide to Windows Vista Multilingual User Interface](http://technet2.microsoft.com/WindowsVista/en/library/85e289ca-9fd8-4963-b06a-5ecc457006c71033.mspx?mfr=true)
* [Windows MUI/LIP Knowledge Center](http://www.microsoft.com/globaldev/reference/muizone.mspx)