Brief

Downgrade Rights - MicrosoftSelect Plus, Select License, Open License, Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) License, and Full Packaged Product (FPP) License

July 2010

**Volume Licensing Programs**

# Summary

This licensing brief helps explain the downgrade rights for the most commonly acquired systems License Terms granted by Microsoft Volume Licensing programs and how they compare with OEM and FPP license rights.

**What’s New in this Brief**

* This brief replaces a previous version published in June 2009.
* Significant changes in this new version:
  + Updated Windows downgrade rights information.

**Details**

Downgrade rights grant the end user with the right to use prior versions of Microsoft® software. Microsoft Volume Licensing programs include specific downgrade rights.

The chart below compares Volume Licensing downgrade rights with those provided under OEM and FPP licenses.

Downgrade Rights for Software Acquired through Select Plus, Select License, Open License, Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM), and Full Packaged Product (FPP), by Product Pool

| Software License Agreement Type | Applications  Software | Systems  Software | Server  Software |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Select Plus,  Select License and Open License | Downgrade rights are granted with all applications software licenses acquired through the Select License and Open License programs. | Downgrade rights are granted with all systems software licenses acquired through the Select License and Open License programs. | Downgrade rights are granted with all server software licenses acquired through the Select License and Open License programs. |
| Licenses Enrolled in Software Assurance | Downgrade rights are granted in connection with all applications software licenses acquired through Volume Licensing, FPP, and OEM and enrolled in Software Assurance coverage.  Please refer to the Microsoft Volume Licensing Product List for current information about which retail and OEM applications qualify for enrollment in Software Assurance. | Downgrade rights are granted in connection with systems software licenses acquired through Volume Licensing, FPP, and OEM and enrolled in Software Assurance coverage. | Downgrade rights are granted in connection with all server software licenses acquired through Volume Licensing, FPP, and OEM and enrolled in Software Assurance coverage. |
| OEM End User License Agreement (LICENSE TERMS) | Rights to OEM versions of applications software are granted in the OEM License Terms. The OEM License Terms for OEM versions of applications software do not grant downgrade rights. | Rights to OEM versions of systems software are granted in the OEM License Terms. The OEM License Terms for most OEM versions of systems software do not grant downgrade rights. The exception is the OEM License Terms for Windows 7 Professional, Windows 7 Ultimate, Windows Vista® Business and Windows Vista Ultimate operating systems, which grant downgrade rights. See the full text of the OEM License Terms for the specific downgrade rights. | Rights to server software are granted in the OEM License Terms. The OEM License Terms for most OEM versions released with or after Windows Server® 2003 R2 allow for the end user to downgrade to an earlier version. New products that do not have earlier versions do not allow an end user to downgrade. See the full text of the applicable OEM License Terms for the specific downgrade rights. |
| FPP End User License Agreement | Downgrade rights are **not** granted under most FPP applications licenses. | Downgrade rights are **not** granted under FPP system licenses. | Some Server products offer downgrade rights. Please refer to the FPP license terms for complete details. |

**Note:** The information above contains the downgrade rights for the most commonly acquired systems License Terms. For downgrade provisions for other systems licenses, please consult the License Terms for the software in question.

# Frequently Asked Questions

**Can I downgrade my OEM version of Windows 7 Professional to Windows Vista Business or Windows XP Professional?**

Yes. OEM versions of Windows 7 Professional may be downgraded to either Windows Vista Business or Windows XP Professional. Similar end user downgrade rights are provided for the following Windows operating systems pre-installed on a new PC (OEM versions):

* Windows 7 Professional Edition
* Windows 7 Ultimate Edition
* Windows Vista Business Edition
* Windows Vista Ultimate Edition

Your ability to downgrade to a previous version of Windows is stated in the License Terms for these products. You can use the following media for your downgrade: Volume Licensing media (provided the end user has a Volume Licensing agreement), retail (FPP), or OEM (which includes system builder hologram CD, provided the software is acquired in accordance with the Microsoft OEM System Builder License). Use of the downgraded operating system is governed by the Windows 7 or Windows Vista License Terms for the original product pre-installed on the PC. You cannot use both the licensed Windows product and the downgrade product - only one Windows product can be used at a time. There are no downgrade rights granted for Windows 7 Starter, Windows 7 Home Basic, or Windows 7 Home Premium.

**If I have Microsoft Office Professional Enterprise Edition 2003, what can I downgrade to?**

Downgrade rights in the Volume Licensing programs provide customers with the right to downgrade to any prior version of the same product. Therefore, Microsoft Office Professional Enterprise 2003 can be downgraded to the Microsoft Office XP, Office XP 2000, Office XP 97, Office XP 95, or Office XP 4.3 versions. You would not, however, be able to downgrade to Microsoft Office Standard Edition 2003 as that is a different product and not considered a previous version of Microsoft Office Professional Enterprise Edition 2003.

**Which 2007 Microsoft Office system suites are eligible to downgrade to Office 2003 suites?**

Customers who have licensed Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2007 are eligible to downgrade to Office Professional Enterprise 2003 and all previous versions as described above. Customers who have licensed Microsoft Office Standard 2007 are eligible to downgrade to Office Standard Edition 2003 and all previous versions of Office Standard Edition.

**Microsoft Office Enterprise 2007 contains several additional components that were not available in any Office 2003 suite. If I have a license for Office Enterprise 2007, then what can I downgrade to?**

Customers who are licensed for Office Enterprise 2007 can downgrade to Office Professional Plus 2003 plus the Microsoft Office OneNote® 2003 note-taking program. Additionally, Office Enterprise 2007 licensees who had licensed Microsoft Office Groove® 3.1 and held Office Groove maintenance that was active on July 1, 2006, may also use Office Groove 3.1 as a downgraded component. Customers choosing to downgrade and use these components must use them on the same device in the same manner they would use the components in the version of the suite for which they acquired a license.

**If I have Windows Vista Enterprise, what can I downgrade to?**

Downgrade rights in the Volume Licensing programs provide customers with the right to downgrade to any prior version of the same product. Windows Vista Enterprise is a new type of product and does not have a prior version. However, customers licensed for use of Windows Vista Enterprise are licensed for Windows Vista Business, and it can be downgraded to the Windows XP Professional, Windows 2000 Professional, Windows NT® 4.0, Windows NT 3.51, Windows 98, or Windows 95 operating system. You would not, however, be able to downgrade to Windows Vista Home Basic or Windows Vista Home Premium, Windows XP Home Edition, or Windows Millennium because those are different products and not considered previous versions of Windows Vista Business.

**Since I can no longer purchase Multilanguage User Interface (MUI) for Windows outside of Software Assurance, can I downgrade and use MUI versions of the Windows operating system under my Windows Vista Business Software Assurance if I downgrade my PC to Windows XP Professional?**

Yes. Customers that acquire rights to MUI on their new Windows Vista PCs through Windows Vista Enterprise in Software Assurance are permitted to use prior MUI versions of the Windows operating system.

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