

## Re: How to access current CAL usage

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- *From:* "jwl" <jwl2@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
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Ken,

I have been chasing this answer for a few weeks and think I have finally gotten the answer that explains it. I spoke with a pair of high level Microsoft techs today and here is what they said:

1. Microsoft acknowledges that there license tracking application for standard CALs for both Windows 2000 and Windows 2003 does not work the way it should, so licensing is now strictly a paper issue.
  - a. They recommend that licensing services be disabled.
  - b. The licensing service is disabled on Windows 2003 by default.
2. Per Server only makes sense if there is one server.
3. Per User and Per Device are essentially subcomponents of Per Seat licensing
4. Per Device makes the most sense when there are more users then devices
5. Per User makes the most sense when there are more devices then users
6. Under per-user, the same person may log into multiple devices at the same time with the same user account using 1 CAL
7. Under per-user, the same person may log into multiple devices with the different user accounts, but will consume 1 CAL per simultaneously login with each different account. For example, if I have 3 user accounts and logged in with only 2 at a time, I would need 2 CALs. The same would be true if I logged into multiple devices with the same two accounts. I would only need a 3rd CAL if I were to log into all three accounts at the same time.
  - a. There is an exception to the above. If one of the machines I logged into was assigned a per-device CAL, I would not use a second (per-user) CAL if I needed to use a separate user account to log into that machine. This, of course, would only hold true if I did not simultaneously log in with that same account on a machine that was not managed by a per-device CAL.
8. Under per-user, accounts created for applications (as a requirement of the applications need to authenticate with the server) require a CAL (one CAL per account created).
9. No CALs are required if authentication does not take place.

I now have to figure out how many CALs I need. We have a policy that

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says folks should be logging off accounts before logging on to new ones (in most cases), so the concurrency discussed in item 7 reduces the number of licenses I would need to have.

I was talking to them about Windows 2000 standard CALs. I believe SBS has its own rules and I know Terminal Services is also different.

Ken Wallewein wrote:

Is there any reliable way to determine how many Server 2003 client access licenses are currently in use? Is there a document anywhere that describes the recommended method of determining license requirement vs usage?

There is, of course, a license management service, but Microsoft support personnel generally recommend not using it.

I suspect the only method (for non-SBS servers) is manual. You count your users and systems, and compare to documented licenses. It's not clear if there is any relationship at all to the number of user and machine accounts defined locally or in Active Directory.

Small Business Server 2003 does seem to have an automated way of determining if the license count has been exceeded. However, it's quite unclear what is actually being counted. It doesn't indicate what users or computers are using which licenses. It's hard to trust software that refuses to back up its claims. How can we be sure what it's counting, and perhaps ensure that we're not tying up licenses inappropriately?

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