

Volume Licensing reference guide

# Windows 8.1 and Windows RT 8.1



## Table of Contents

---

Introduction.....	3
Windows 8.1 Editions, Windows RT 8.1, and Related Products.....	3
Windows 8.1 Editions and Windows RT 8.1.....	3
Windows Desktop Offerings Available Through Volume Licensing.....	3
Windows 8.1 Pro Upgrade License .....	4
Rights to Windows 8.1 Pro for Windows 8 Pro Customers .....	4
Windows 8.1 Enterprise Upgrade License.....	4
Qualifying Operating Systems .....	5
Software Assurance Benefits for Windows 8.1 .....	7
Key Benefits Provided with Software Assurance for Windows and Windows VDA Subscription.....	7
Acquiring Software Assurance for Windows .....	9
Microsoft Desktop Optimization Pack.....	10
Windows VDA Rights.....	11
Windows To Go Rights .....	11
Windows Companion Subscription License .....	12
Windows 8.1 Enterprise Sideloadng.....	13
Windows 8.1 Downgrade Rights.....	14
Volume Activation .....	15
Activation Through Key Management Service and Multiple Activation Key .....	15
Activation Through Microsoft Active Directory.....	15
Get Genuine Options .....	16
Windows Offerings by Volume Licensing Program.....	17
Windows Desktop Products Available for Purchase by Volume Licensing Program .....	17
How to Acquire Licenses Through Volume Licensing .....	17

---

# Volume Licensing reference guide for Windows 8.1 and Windows RT 8.1

## Introduction

Windows 8.1 offers the experiences that people love while delivering enterprise-grade solutions that businesses require.

Microsoft Volume Licensing solutions provide the most flexible and cost-effective way to give your organization access to the latest Windows desktop technologies. Whether you want to upgrade your PCs to Windows 8.1, gain access to exclusive offerings such as Windows 8.1 Enterprise edition and the Microsoft Desktop Optimization Pack, or use Windows with greater flexibility, there is a Volume Licensing option that is right for your organization.

This document provides an overview of the products available through Volume Licensing, information about the products that are eligible for upgrades, and the key choices you have for utilizing Windows in your organization.

*Content included is for descriptive informational purposes only and is not meant to replace or override other licensing documentation such as the Windows 8.1 End User License Agreement, Product Use Rights, or the Product List.*

## Windows 8.1 Editions, Windows RT 8.1, and Related Products

### Windows 8.1 Editions and Windows RT 8.1

There is an edition of Windows designed to meet the needs of every organization, from a small, growing business to a multinational enterprise. The following table lists the channels through which Windows RT 8.1 and the consumer and business editions of Windows 8.1 are available.

 Full Packaged Product (Retail)	 Preinstalled on PC (OEM)	 Volume Licensing
Windows 8.1 Pro Windows 8.1	Windows 8.1 Pro Windows 8.1* ----- Windows RT 8.1	Windows 8.1 Pro Windows 8.1 Enterprise

\*Local language-only edition of Windows 8.1 (Windows 8.1 Single Language) will be available in select emerging markets.

### Windows Desktop Offerings Available Through Volume Licensing

The following offerings are available for purchase through [Microsoft Volume Licensing](#):

Product	Description
<a href="#">Windows 8.1 Pro Upgrade</a>	Windows 8.1 Pro is for small to medium-sized organizations and delivers new levels of productivity, security, and mobility without sacrificing performance or choice. It provides enhanced features that help you easily connect to company networks, access files on the go, encrypt data, and more. Windows 8.1 Pro is ready for business.
<a href="#">Windows 8.1 Enterprise Upgrade</a>	Windows 8.1 Enterprise edition includes all the capabilities of Windows 8.1 Pro, plus premium features designed to meet the mobility, productivity, security, manageability, and virtualization needs of today's large organizations. See the <a href="#">Windows 8.1 Enterprise</a> section below for more details.

---

---

# Volume Licensing reference guide for Windows 8.1 and Windows RT 8.1

---

## Software Assurance for Windows

Software Assurance (SA) provides the greatest flexibility for how you use Windows. It includes access to new versions as they become available, flexible use rights, and a set of tools, technologies, and training to help you get the most from your Windows investment.

## Windows Virtual Desktop Access (VDA) Subscription License

The Windows VDA subscription license provides the right to access virtual Windows desktop environments from devices that are not covered by Software Assurance for Windows, such as thin clients.

Note: VDA Rights are also included as a benefit of Software Assurance for Windows.

Add-On Offerings  
for SA or VDA

## Microsoft Desktop Optimization Pack (MDOP)

MDOP helps manage Windows features, simplify deployments through virtualization, and restore user productivity after a system issue.

## Windows Companion Subscription License (CSL)

The Windows CSL enables Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) scenarios and provides businesses more flexibility to run Windows across multiple devices for employees.

---

## Windows 8.1 Pro Upgrade License

Volume Licensing is a cost-effective and scalable way for commercial customers to upgrade existing PCs to Windows 8.1. If PCs are not already covered by Software Assurance for Windows, you can purchase upgrade licenses through a Volume Licensing program to gain access to Windows 8.1 Pro.

Windows 8.1 Pro is designed for small and medium-sized organizations and can run on PCs that meet the recommended hardware requirements of Windows 7 Professional and Windows 8 Pro, which means that it will run on the majority of business PCs already in use today. The Windows 8.1 Pro upgrade license allows you to take advantage of the security, productivity, and ease of management on existing PCs with a qualifying operating system license (see below).

- ▶ Encrypt your data with BitLocker
- ▶ Access your PC on the go with Remote Desktop
- ▶ Connect to company networks with domain join

### Rights to Windows 8.1 Pro for Windows 8 Pro Customers

Organizations that acquired Windows 8 Pro through a volume license agreement are licensed for Windows 8.1 Pro even if their Software Assurance for the Windows desktop operating system expired prior to the release of Windows 8.1 Pro. This does not apply to Windows 8 Enterprise; new version rights for Windows Enterprise edition come exclusively through active Software Assurance.

## Windows 8.1 Enterprise Upgrade License

Windows 8.1 Enterprise features include all the capabilities that customers get with Windows 8.1 Pro, plus premium features designed to provide the mobile productivity, security, manageability, and virtualization needs of today's organizations.

Windows 8.1 Enterprise is available for purchase via a volume license agreement or with Windows VDA subscription.

Customers with Windows 8.1 Enterprise can take advantage of the following features, not available in Windows 8.1 Pro:

# Volume Licensing reference guide for Windows 8.1 and Windows RT 8.1

	Feature	Description
	Windows To Go Creator	Allows the creation of a fully manageable corporate desktop running Windows 8.1 Enterprise edition on a bootable USB drive.
	Start screen control	Enables IT to control the Start screen layout that users will see (but cannot change) through centrally managed Group Policies.
	DirectAccess	Allows remote users to seamlessly access resources inside a corporate network without having to launch a separate VPN.
	BranchCache	Allows users' PCs to cache files, websites, and other content from central servers, so content is not repeatedly downloaded across the wide area network (WAN).
	AppLocker	Enables IT to specify what software is allowed to run on a user's PCs through centrally managed but flexible Group Policies.
	Virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) enhancements	Enhancements in Microsoft RemoteFX and Windows Server 2012 R2 provide users a rich desktop experience with the ability to have RemoteApps look more like local apps, adjust screen resolution and orientation on demand, and reconnect to your desktop quickly across any type of network (LAN or WAN) for VDI scenarios.
	Windows 8.1 Enterprise Sideload	As Enterprise Sideload is enabled as a feature in Windows 8.1 Enterprise, customers running this edition on domain-joined PCs can easily manage the direct deployment of touch-optimized Windows 8.1 apps to these devices without going through the Windows Store.

Learn more about Windows 8.1 Enterprise at <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/enterprise>.

## Qualifying Operating Systems

Windows licenses available through Volume Licensing are upgrade-only licenses. They do not replace purchasing the initial Windows licenses for software that comes preinstalled on new PCs. Each PC that runs the Windows 8.1 Pro or Enterprise upgrade must first be licensed to run one of the qualifying operating systems identified below—otherwise the PC will not have a valid, legal Windows license. If you don't have a preexisting license for a genuine, qualifying operating system on your PC, see the [Get Genuine Options](#) section in this guide.

Each of these conditions must be met in order for a base PC to be eligible for an upgrade license:

- ▶ Software under the qualifying operating system license must already be installed on the device that will be assigned the Volume Licensing upgrade. See chart below of versions that are eligible for upgrade.
- ▶ You must remove the existing qualifying operating system from the device in order to deploy the Volume Licensing upgrade license, unless the PC is covered by Software Assurance for Windows.
- ▶ Customers who want to install or run more than one licensed operating system at one time (including the qualifying operating system) can optionally attach Software Assurance for Windows to their Volume Licensing upgrade license.

# Volume Licensing reference guide for Windows 8.1 and Windows RT 8.1

## Qualifying operating systems for the Windows 8.1 Pro or Enterprise Upgrade through Volume Licensing:

Qualifying Operating Systems	New Enterprise Agreement (EA)/ Open Value Company-wide (OV-CW)	Existing EA/ OV-CW	Select/Select Plus (All Except Academic)	Open (All Except Academic, Charity, and OV-CW)	Academic and Charity
<b>Windows 8 and Windows 8.1 (32-bit or 64-bit)</b>					
Enterprise (N, K, KN)*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pro (N, K, KN, diskless)*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Windows 8 and Windows 8.1					✓
Windows 8 and Windows 8.1 Single Language*					✓
<b>Windows 7 (32-bit or 64-bit)</b>					
Windows 7 Enterprise (N, K, KN)*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Windows 7 Professional (N, K, KN, diskless)*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Windows 7 Ultimate	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Windows 7 Home Premium					✓
Windows 7 Home Basic*					✓
Windows 7 Starter Edition					✓
<b>Windows Vista (32-bit or 64-bit)</b>					
Windows Vista Enterprise (N, K, KN)	✓		✓	✓	✓
Windows Vista Business (N, K, KN, Blade)	✓		✓	✓	✓
Windows Vista Ultimate	✓		✓	✓	✓
Windows Vista Home Premium					✓
Windows Vista Home Basic					✓
Windows Starter Edition					✓
<b>Windows XP (32-bit or 64-bit)</b>					
Windows XP Professional (N, K, KN, Blade)	✓		✓	✓	✓
Windows XP Tablet Edition (N, K, KN, Blade)	✓		✓	✓	✓
Windows XP Pro N	✓		✓	✓	✓
Windows XP Pro Blade PC	✓		✓	✓	✓
Windows XP Home/Windows XP Starter					✓
<b>Windows 2000 Professional</b>	✓		✓	✓	✓
<b>Windows NT Workstation 4.0</b>	✓		✓	✓	✓
<b>Windows 98 (including 2nd Edition)</b>	✓		✓	✓	✓
<b>Apple Macintosh</b>	✓		✓	✓	✓

\*Windows 8.1 and Windows 8 Single Language, Windows 7 Home Basic, N, K, and KN are specialized editions available for certain markets. Diskless availability is limited to Windows 8.1 Pro and Windows 7 Professional.

# Volume Licensing reference guide for Windows 8.1 and Windows RT 8.1

## Software Assurance Benefits for Windows 8.1

Software Assurance for Windows includes a core set of benefits to help improve workforce productivity, streamline software deployment, and reduce costs.

Software Assurance for Windows also provides the greatest flexibility for how you use Windows because it includes access to enterprise offerings and use rights that are not available through other licensing programs. Software Assurance for Windows is the path to enabling people's flexible work styles by providing access to Windows in a variety of ways across devices.

You may separately license devices that do not have or are not eligible for Software Assurance for Windows (such as thin clients) with a Windows Virtual Desktop Access (VDA) subscription to access these benefits. See below for a comparison of Software Assurance for Windows and the Windows VDA subscription.

Software Assurance for Windows		Windows VDA subscription
PC	Typical device	Thin client
Yes	Qualifying OS required	No
Yes	Local install rights	No

Comparing Software Assurance for Windows and Windows VDA subscription.

### Key Benefits Provided with Software Assurance for Windows and Windows VDA Subscription

**Note:** "Licensed device" refers to any device covered by either Software Assurance for Windows or a Windows VDA subscription.

	Benefit	Description
Access to Enterprise Offerings	New Version Rights	With New Version Rights, you have access to new releases of Windows on any licensed device as soon as they are released for no additional cost.
	Microsoft Desktop Optimization Pack (MDOP)	MDOP is an optional subscription add-on that enables businesses to virtualize the operating system applications and the user experience, manage Windows features, and restore user productivity after a system issue. See the <a href="#">Microsoft Desktop Optimization Pack</a> section below for more details.
	Windows Thin PC	Windows Thin PC is a smaller footprint version of Windows 7 that enables organizations to repurpose existing PCs as thin clients, thereby reducing the need for new thin client hardware. This benefit applies only to devices licensed with Software Assurance for Windows.

# Volume Licensing reference guide for Windows 8.1 and Windows RT 8.1

Flexible Use Rights	<b>Windows Virtual Desktop Access (VDA) Rights</b>	<i>Access Windows in a variety of ways across devices.</i> Windows VDA Rights enable users to access virtual instances of Windows in a variety of user scenarios. See the <a href="#">Windows VDA Rights</a> section below for more details.
	<b>Windows To Go Use Rights</b>	<i>Travel light without sacrificing productivity by using Windows To Go.</i> Windows To Go is a fully manageable corporate desktop running Windows 8.1 Enterprise edition on a bootable USB stick. This use right allows Windows To Go to be run on any licensed device. See the <a href="#">Windows To Go</a> section below for more details.
	<b>Roaming Use Rights</b>	<i>Enable work from home and on the road scenarios through Roaming Use Rights.</i> Roaming Use Rights allow the primary user of any licensed device to access a virtual instance of Windows running in the data center (VDI) or Windows To Go from non-corporate devices, such as personally owned or hotel business center PCs, while away from the office.
	<b>Windows Companion Subscription License (CSL)</b>	<i>Enable bring your own device (BYOD) scenarios with flexibility for running corporate desktops by using personally owned companion devices at work.</i> The Windows CSL is an <i>optional subscription add-on</i> that grants the primary user of a licensed device the rights to access a corporate desktop through either a VDI or Windows To Go on up to four devices that are capable of leveraging these technologies. Devices eligible for licensed use include any type of personally owned device as well as corporate-owned non-x86 devices. See the <a href="#">Windows CSL</a> section below for more details.
	<b>Windows RT Companion VDA Rights</b>	<i>Extend productivity to Windows RT tablets with Virtual Desktop Access.</i> Windows RT Companion VDA Rights allow the primary user of a licensed device rights to access a corporate desktop through a VDI from a corporate-owned companion Windows 8.1 RT or Windows RT device with no additional Windows license required.
	<b>Windows 8.1 Enterprise Sideload</b>	<i>Deploy custom Windows 8.1 apps directly to corporate devices without using the Windows Store.</i> Receive the necessary use rights required to enable deployment of touch-optimized Windows 8.1 apps directly to devices within an organization as instead of having to install through the public Windows Store. See the <a href="#">Windows 8.1 Enterprise Sideload</a> section below for more details.

---

# Volume Licensing reference guide for Windows 8.1 and Windows RT 8.1

Customers with Software Assurance for Windows or Windows VDA also have access to the following benefits:

- ▶ **Extended Hotfix support:** Provides specific product fixes on a per customer incident basis, beyond the standard product support.
- ▶ **24x7 Problem Resolution Support:** Provides around-the-clock phone and web incident support for Microsoft server and desktop products.
- ▶ **Enterprise Source Licensing Program:** Provides access to Windows source code for internal development and support.
- ▶ **E-Learning:** Offers self-paced interactive training designed for end users and IT professionals; delivered over the Internet or an intranet.
- ▶ **Training Vouchers:** Provides in-depth technical classroom training for IT professionals and developers.
- ▶ **Spread Payments:** Payment for license and Software Assurance may be spread across three equal, annual sums.

**Notes:**

- ▶ The rights above apply only to Windows, and license requirements for other software still apply.
- ▶ Benefit eligibility varies by Volume Licensing program and products. Refer to the [Microsoft Volume Licensing Product List](#) to verify eligibility by program and products.

## Acquiring Software Assurance for Windows

There are several ways to cover your Windows 8.1 Enterprise licenses with Software Assurance for Windows:

- ▶ When purchasing a Windows 8.1 Enterprise Upgrade license through Volume Licensing, you can also acquire Software Assurance for that license.
- ▶ Software Assurance is automatically included in certain Volume Licensing programs such as Enterprise Agreement, Enterprise Subscription Agreement, Open Value, Open Value Subscription, and Enrollment for Education Solutions.
- ▶ When you purchase new PCs purchased prior to July 1, 2014, with Windows 8.1 Pro preinstalled by the OEM, you can purchase Software Assurance for Windows through the Open License or Select Plus programs within 90 days of the PC purchase. This option will no longer be available as of July 1, 2014.

When you license a device with Software Assurance for Windows, the Software Assurance benefits for that device are available only for the term of the Software Assurance coverage.

**Note:** As Software Assurance is attached to the Windows Enterprise upgrade, the use rights for the Enterprise edition are perpetual for the licensed device even after Software Assurance coverage ends unless the Windows Enterprise upgrade is acquired under a subscription license. However, you may move your Enterprise upgrade license to a new device while your Software Assurance coverage is active.

## Microsoft Desktop Optimization Pack

Microsoft Desktop Optimization Pack (MDOP) is a suite of technologies that helps enterprise customers take advantage of desktop virtualization, better manage Windows devices, and deliver advanced system restore capabilities.

It is available to Software Assurance for Windows customers as an add-on subscription license. You can access MDOP and any additions for as long as your MDOP subscription is active.

The MDOP suite includes the following technologies:

	Technology	Description
 Virtualize	Microsoft User Experience Virtualization (UE-V)	Deliver a user's personal Windows experience across many devices, enabling them to change their device and keep their experience, through an enterprise-scale user state virtualization solution that is simple for IT to deploy and that easily integrates with existing management tools.
	Microsoft Application Virtualization (App-V)	Microsoft Application Virtualization (App-V) helps organizations provide their end users with access to virtually any application, anywhere, without installing applications directly on their computers.
	Microsoft Enterprise Desktop Virtualization (MED-V)	Microsoft Enterprise Desktop Virtualization (MED-V) helps enterprises upgrade to Windows 7 even when some applications are not yet compatible.
 Manage	Microsoft Advanced Group Policy Management (AGPM)	Microsoft Advanced Group Policy Management (AGPM) extends the capabilities of the Group Policy to provide comprehensive change control and improved management for Group Policy Objects.
	Microsoft BitLocker Administration and Monitoring (MBAM)	Microsoft BitLocker Administration and Monitoring (MBAM) simplifies BitLocker management through centralized deployment, key management and recovery, provisioning, and reporting of encryption status for devices across the enterprise.
 Restore	Microsoft Diagnostics and Recovery Toolset (DaRT)	Reduces downtime and accelerate desktop repair, recovery, and troubleshooting of unbootable Windows-based systems with intuitive repair and recovery tools.

Learn more about MDOP at <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/enterprise/products/mdop.aspx>.

---

# Volume Licensing reference guide for Windows 8.1 and Windows RT 8.1

## Windows VDA Rights

Windows VDA Rights provide greater flexibility for how you use Windows. Windows VDA Rights are available either as a benefit of Software Assurance for Windows or through the separate Windows VDA subscription license (for devices not covered by or eligible for Software Assurance for Windows, such as thin PCs).

Use Right	Description
VDI in the data center	Windows Virtualization Rights allow access to up to four virtual instances of Windows running on a server from the licensed device.
Local virtual machines*	Run up to four virtual instances of Windows locally on the licensed device.
Dual boot*	Run up to two physical instances of Windows on the licensed device.

\*Applies to Windows VDA Rights acquired through Software Assurance for Windows only.

Learn more about Windows VDA Rights at <http://www.microsoft.com/licensing/software-assurance/windows-virtualization.aspx>.

## Windows To Go Rights

By using Windows To Go, users can travel light without sacrificing productivity, organizations can enable new “Bring Your Own PC” scenarios, and contingent staff can get up and running faster with more security.

Windows To Go enables IT administrators to provide users with a corporate Windows image that can include line-of-business apps, settings, and corporate data on a compatible USB storage device. Users can boot and operate Windows To Go from any corporate or personal PC (Windows 7, Windows 8, or Windows 8.1 logo-certified) and continue to get a rich and consistent Windows 8.1 experience.

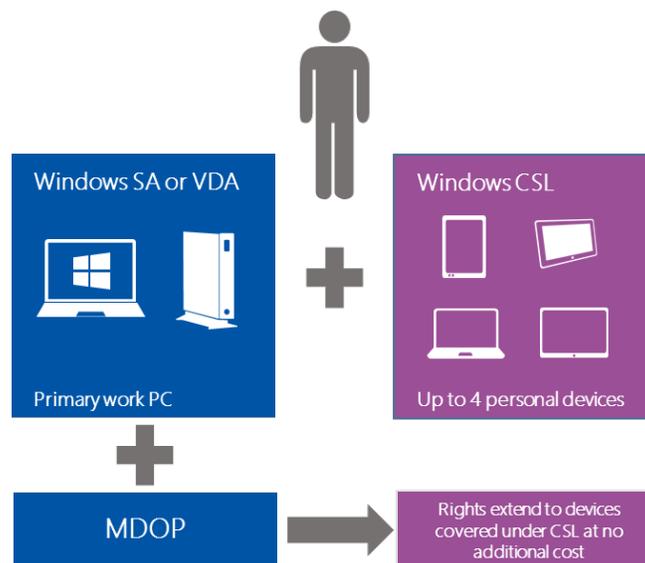
 **Windows To Go Rights**

- ▶ Any device covered by either Software Assurance for Windows or Windows VDA subscription is licensed to run Windows To Go.
- ▶ The primary user of any device licensed at work with Software Assurance for Windows or Windows VDA can run Windows To Go while at home or on the road from a non-corporate PC (for example, personally owned or hotel business center) under Roaming Use Rights.
- ▶ Any device covered under the Windows CSL (see below) is licensed to run Windows To Go.

**Note:** Windows To Go requires volume activation, either by using the [Key Management Service](#) (KMS) server in your organization or by using [Active Directory](#)-based volume activation. See the [Volume Activation](#) section below for more details.

## Windows Companion Subscription License

The Windows Companion Subscription License (CSL) enables Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) scenarios for secondary or companion devices, thus providing organizations greater flexibility to run Windows across multiple devices for employees. When attached to a work device licensed with Software Assurance for Windows or Windows VDA, the Windows CSL grants the primary user of that device rights to access a corporate desktop through either VDI or Windows To Go on up to four additional devices capable of leveraging these technologies. Primary users of a device covered with an active MDOP license and CSL can access MDOP functionality through their companion devices without the need to purchase additional MDOP licenses for each companion device. Devices eligible for use under the Windows CSL include any type of personally owned device as well as organization-owned non-x86 devices.



*When attached to a work device licensed with Software Assurance for Windows or Windows VDA subscription, the Windows CSL grants the primary user of that work device rights to access a corporate desktop through VDI or Windows To Go on up to four devices capable of leveraging these technologies. If the primary work device is licensed with MDOP, the additional devices covered under the Windows CSL can also access MDOP functionality.*

The Windows CSL provides a single license valid for up to four devices instead of requiring individual licenses for each companion device. All that is required is to license the primary work PCs with Software Assurance and then select the users who will be bringing devices from home and attach the Windows CSL.

For example, a company with an Enterprise Agreement covering 5,000 PCs with Software Assurance for Windows and MDOP wants to enable 1,000 of their employees whose primary devices are licensed as part of the 5,000 covered by Software Assurance to also be able to bring personal devices from home to access their desktop through Windows To Go or VDI. These users might bring two devices to work on average, but because the CSL covers multiple devices, the company needs to purchase only 1,000 CSL licenses. Because their primary device is licensed with MDOP, these users' personal devices covered under the CSL can access MDOP functionality through Windows To Go or VDI. The Windows CSL costs less than a single VDA license, enabling this scenario to be licensed with fewer licenses and at a lower cost per license. And IT knows that they are compliant regardless of what types of devices their employees are bringing as long as each employee brings no more than four devices to work.

---

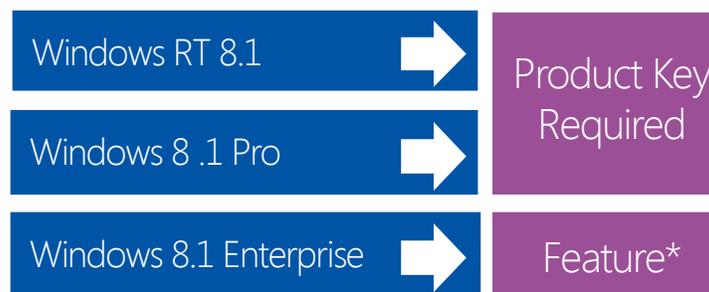
# Volume Licensing reference guide for Windows 8.1 and Windows RT 8.1

## Windows 8.1 Enterprise Sideloading

For Windows 8.1, desktop apps can continue to be deployed as they always have been. For new touch-optimized Windows 8.1 apps, the Windows Store is a great way to install these apps to business customers. Medium- or enterprise-size customers who typically deploy apps at broader scale might want to also distribute new Windows 8.1 apps directly to devices within their organization. For example, this direct deployment option makes sense for custom developed line-of-business apps or enterprise software purchased directly from an ISV.

Customers can enable their devices running Windows 8.1 Enterprise, Windows 8.1 Pro, or Windows RT 8.1 for direct deployment of custom-developed, line-of-business Windows 8.1 apps outside of the Windows Store through Enterprise Sideloading.

- ▶ Windows 8.1 Enterprise edition has features built in that enable Enterprise Sideloading, allowing customers running this edition on domain-joined PCs to easily manage the deployment of trusted Windows 8.1 apps through a policy setting (refer to this [TechNet article](#) to learn more about policy settings for Enterprise Sideloading).
- ▶ Customers will also be able to enable Enterprise Sideloading of trusted Windows 8.1 apps on Windows RT 8.1, Windows 8.1 Pro, or Windows 8.1 Enterprise devices that are not domain-joined by using a Volume Licensing Multiple Activation Key (MAK) in addition to the policy setting referenced above. To learn more about using MAK, see the [Volume Activation](#) section below.



\*Requires device to be domain-joined.

---

Customers with Software Assurance for Windows or Windows VDA subscriptions in the following Volume Licensing programs will be granted Enterprise Sideloading rights and provided with the MAKs as a Software Assurance benefit at no additional cost. Product keys for Enterprise Sideloading will be made available through the Volume Licensing Service Center (VLSC).

- ▶ Enterprise Agreement with Windows
- ▶ Enterprise Subscription Agreement with Windows
- ▶ Enrollment for Education Solutions with Windows (under a Campus and School Agreement)
- ▶ School Enrollment with Windows
- ▶ Select and Select Plus with Software Assurance for Windows

Other customers who want to deploy custom line-of-business Windows 8.1 apps can purchase Enterprise Sideloading licenses and MAKs through Volume Licensing. These purchased licenses include Enterprise Sideloading rights for Windows 8 along with Windows 8.1. Enterprise Sideloading licenses will be available for purchase in the following programs and will also be made available through the VLSC:

- ▶ Select and Select Plus
- ▶ Open License

# Volume Licensing reference guide for Windows 8.1 and Windows RT 8.1

## Windows 8.1 Downgrade Rights

Your rights to use prior versions of Windows in place of Windows 8.1 (“downgrade rights”) depend on how the license was acquired.

**Preinstalled on PC (OEM)**

OEM downgrade rights are limited to the equivalent edition for Windows 7 and Windows Vista.

**Volume Licensing**

Volume Licensing downgrade rights provide greatest flexibility, with downgrades to any prior version.

### Notes:

- ▶ Downgrade rights are included in licenses obtained through OEM Preinstall or Volume Licensing and do not apply to retail copies of Windows.
- ▶ OEM downgrade rights apply to Windows 8.1 Pro and allow downgrading to Windows 7 Professional or Windows Vista Business.
- ▶ Software Assurance for Windows provides the greatest flexibility, allowing for downgrades to additional prior versions and editions, including Windows 7 Enterprise.

Version Downgrade to	OEM Preinstall	Volume Licensing	
	Windows 8.1 Pro	Windows 8.1 Pro Upgrade	Windows 8.1 Enterprise Upgrade
Windows 8 Enterprise			✓
Windows 8 Pro		✓	✓
Windows 7 Enterprise			✓
Windows 7 Professional	✓	✓	✓
Windows Vista Enterprise			✓
Windows Vista Business	✓	✓	✓
Windows XP Pro		✓	✓
Windows 2000 Professional		✓	✓
Windows 95/98/NT		✓	✓

This means that PCs purchased with Windows 8.1 Pro preinstalled by an OEM will have the option to downgrade to either Windows 7 Professional or Windows Vista Business. For circumstances requiring Windows XP or other prior versions, the rights to downgrade to these versions are available through volume licensing.

### Notes:

- ▶ There are no downgrade rights to Windows 7 Ultimate.
- ▶ End of support for Windows XP is April 8, 2014.

## Volume Activation

Windows product activation is a set of technologies that enables customers to confirm that their copy of Windows is properly licensed. Product activation is required for all editions of Windows 8.1.

Volume Activation applies to computers that are covered under a Volume Licensing program and allows enterprise customers to automate the activation process, making it transparent to users. It is used strictly as a tool for activation, and it is not tied to license invoicing or billing.

### **Activation Through Key Management Service and Multiple Activation Key**

Key Management Service (KMS) allows organizations to activate computers within customer environment through an internally hosted service (KMS), and Multiple Activation Key (MAK) activates computers on a one-time basis by using the hosted activation services provided by Microsoft. Customers can use either or both key types to activate computers in their environments.

### **Activation Through Microsoft Active Directory**

During Active Directory-based activation, any Windows 8.1 or Windows Server 2012 R2 computers connected to the domain will activate automatically and transparently during computer setup. These clients stay activated as long as they remain members of the domain and maintain periodic contact with a domain controller.

Learn more about volume activation at <http://www.technet.com/volumeactivation>.

# Volume Licensing reference guide for Windows 8.1 and Windows RT 8.1

## Get Genuine Options

Windows upgrade licenses are designed to upgrade previously acquired qualified operating system licenses. The best and most cost-effective way to acquire full Windows licenses is through preinstalled licenses on a new PC. However, if you discover counterfeit software or have applied a Volume Licensing Windows upgrade license without a qualified base operating system on your computers, there are solutions available through Volume Licensing that can help remedy this noncompliant situation.

To purchase the correct Windows 8.1 Pro licenses through Volume Licensing, the Get Genuine Windows Agreement (GGWA) has two options: GGWA for Small and Medium Organizations and GGWA for Large Organizations. Academic customers can purchase Windows 8.1 licenses via GGWA for Academic Organizations.

	GGWA for Small and Medium Organizations	GGWA for Large Organizations	GGWA for Academic Organizations
Target Audience	Customers with five or more PCs needing Windows licensing	Customers with a large installed base of PCs needing Windows licensing	Academic customers with five or more PCs needing Windows licensing
Order Quantity	Minimum five licenses (reorders allowed through the agreement term of two years)	Minimum five licenses	Minimum five licenses
Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Sold through Microsoft Resellers</li> <li>▶ Non-signed commitment to buy legal going forward</li> <li>▶ No transferability of license</li> <li>▶ Volume licensing downgrade rights available</li> <li>▶ Software Assurance can be purchased within 90 days</li> <li>▶ Support is available for purchase from a Microsoft Reseller</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Sold through Microsoft Licensing Solutions Provider or direct from Microsoft</li> <li>▶ Pre-signed agreement that includes an audit clause</li> <li>▶ Commitment that future Windows software acquisitions will contain legal software</li> <li>▶ Placement of a one-time-only order</li> <li>▶ No transferability of license</li> <li>▶ A Master Business and Services Agreement must be in place or one must be set up</li> <li>▶ Volume licensing downgrade rights available</li> <li>▶ Software Assurance can be purchased within 90 days</li> <li>▶ Support is available for purchase from either Microsoft or Microsoft Licensing Solutions Provider</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Sold through Microsoft Academic Resellers</li> <li>▶ Non-signed commitment to buy legal going forward</li> <li>▶ No transferability of license</li> <li>▶ Needs to be combined with Academic Windows Upgrade Volume License</li> <li>▶ Downgrade rights not available; available only with Academic Volume License</li> <li>▶ Software Assurance is not available; can be added by acquiring a Windows Upgrade license</li> <li>▶ Support is available for purchase from a Microsoft Reseller</li> </ul>

Learn more about Get Genuine options at <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/genuine/business>.

# Volume Licensing reference guide for Windows 8.1 and Windows RT 8.1

## Windows Offerings by Volume Licensing Program

Microsoft Volume Licensing offers customized programs that help organizations purchase software licenses. Tailored for different organization type, size, and purchasing preferences, Microsoft Volume Licensing programs provide flexible and affordable solutions designed to help you manage your licenses with ease. Whether you have five or thousands of desktop PCs, there is a Microsoft Volume Licensing program for you.

### Windows Desktop Products Available for Purchase by Volume Licensing Program

Product	Open License	Open Value & Subscription	Select Plus & Select License	Enterprise Agreement & Subscription	Enrollment for Education Solutions (Under a Campus and School Agreement)	School Enrollment
Windows 8.1 Pro Upgrade	✓		✓			
Windows 8.1 Enterprise Upgrade	✓		✓			
Windows 8.1 Enterprise Upgrade with Software Assurance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
MDOP		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Windows VDA Subscription		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Windows Companion Subscription License (CSL)			✓	✓	✓	✓
Windows 8.1 Enterprise Sideload License	✓		✓			

### How to Acquire Licenses Through Volume Licensing

To acquire the latest Microsoft technology at a significant cost savings over full packaged products through Microsoft Volume Licensing, contact your Microsoft representative or Microsoft Reseller Partner.

Your preferred Microsoft Volume Licensing reseller can help you acquire Software Assurance, which can be ordered through any Microsoft Volume Licensing program. To find a Microsoft Volume Licensing reseller:

- ▶ In the United States, call (800) 426-9400 or visit <http://pinpoint.microsoft.com>.
- ▶ In Canada, call the Microsoft Resource Centre at (877) 568-2495.
- ▶ Outside the United States or Canada, contact your local Microsoft subsidiary. To locate licensing information for your local subsidiary, visit <http://www.microsoft.com/licensing/index/worldwide.aspx>.

© 2014 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

This document is for informational purposes only. MICROSOFT MAKES NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, IN THIS DOCUMENT. This information is provided to help guide your authorized use of products you license; it is not your agreement. Your use of products licensed under your volume license agreement is governed by the terms and conditions of that agreement. In the case of any conflict between this information and your agreement, the terms and conditions of your agreement control. Prices for licenses acquired through Microsoft resellers are determined by the reseller.