

Base and Additive Client Access Licenses (CALs): An explanation

This brief applies to all Microsoft Commercial Licensing programs.

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Summary

Server software that requires Client Access Licenses (CALs) offers one base CAL and may offer one or more additive CALs. Base CALs license access to server functionality. Additive CALs license access to advanced server functionality and must be licensed in addition to the corresponding base CAL. Both types of CALs are available on a per-user and per-device basis.

What's new in this brief

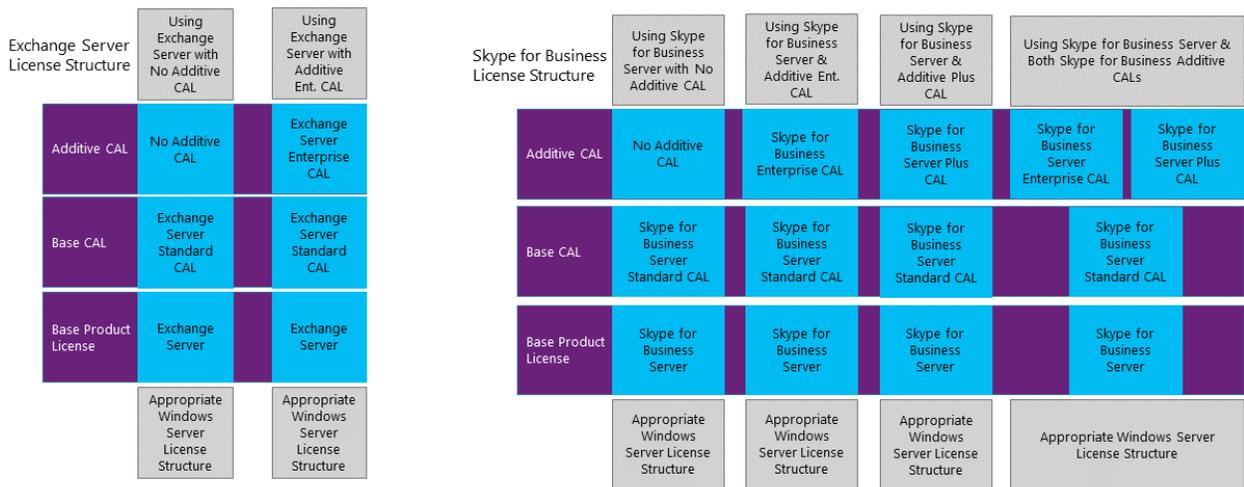
This brief replaces a previous version published in April 2013. The content has been updated to reflect the Enterprise CAL Suite components as of June 2017.

Base and Additive Client Access Licenses (CALs): an explanation

Details

There are two practical components when licensing access to Microsoft server products: access to the Windows Server operating system itself, and access to the Microsoft application that works within the Windows Server environment. This is often referred to as licensing “the stack” of products used in an IT environment. Users must license access to each layer of the stack. Common examples of this include use of Exchange Server and Skype for Business Server: users must acquire CALs for Windows Server which is required for use with these products, as well as the appropriate CALs for Exchange and/or Skype for Business Server.

Application Layer



Server Operating System Layer

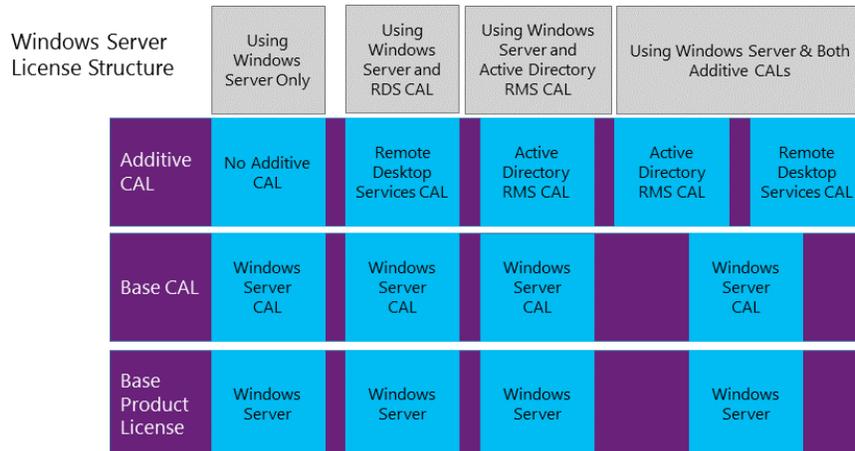


Figure 1: License structure for base and additive Server/CAL products

Base and Additive Client Access Licenses (CALs): an explanation

Additive CAL

Some Microsoft software products, such as the Windows Server operating system, license additional functionality with licenses known as "additive CALs." Additive CALs license functionality in the base server product and must be licensed in addition to the base CAL. Additive CALs are sometimes referred to as "premium" or "premium services" CALs. External Connectors are generally available for both base and additive functionalities.

Examples of additive CALs include the Windows Server Remote Desktop Services CAL and the Windows Server Active Directory Rights Management Services (RMS) CAL. Both of these additive CALs license functionalities are included in Windows Server and require a Windows Server CAL for their use.

The following figure describes the four licensing options with Windows Server CALs.

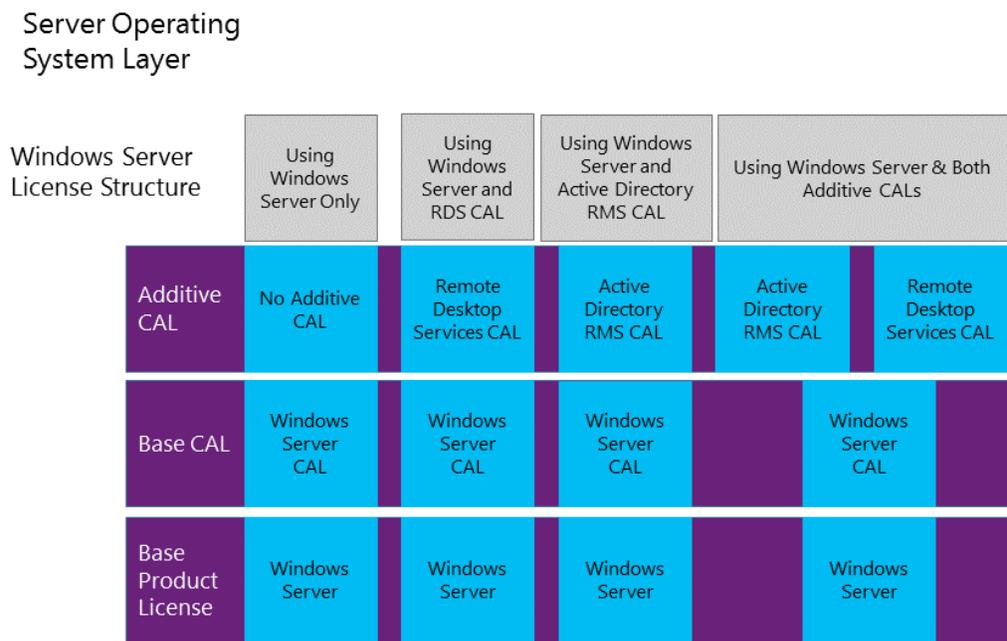


Figure 2: Windows Server CAL license structure options

Base and Additive Client Access Licenses (CALs): an explanation

Microsoft Exchange Server offers an additive CAL called the Exchange Server Enterprise CAL, which is licensed in addition to the Exchange Server Standard CAL. Each user or device requiring functionality from the Exchange Server Enterprise CAL (unified messaging, personal archiving, etc.) also needs to purchase a matching Exchange Server Standard CAL as pre-requisite.

The following figure describes the two licensing options with Exchange Server CALs.



Figure 3: Exchange Server CAL license structure options

In a similar fashion to these examples, Microsoft SharePoint Server offers the SharePoint Standard CAL (portals, enterprise content management) and the SharePoint Enterprise CAL (business intelligence, enterprise search, electronic forms). Skype for Business Server offers the Skype for Business Server Standard CAL (instant messaging and presence), the Skype for Business Server Enterprise CAL (audio/video/web conferencing), and the Skype for Business Server Plus CAL (Enterprise Voice).

Base and Additive Client Access Licenses (CALs): an explanation

Frequently asked questions

1. Are premium services CALs the same as additive CALs?

Yes. Additive CALs are sometimes referred to as “premium” or “premium services” CALs. The terminology was updated to be more descriptive and reduce confusion with online services.

2. Do I need more than one additive CAL per user or device to access the same functionality running on more than one server?

No. Only one user or device additive CAL is needed to use the services on any number of your licensed servers. For example, a Remote Desktop Services User CAL permits one user to access Remote Desktop Services functionality on any of your licensed Windows Server operating systems.

3. Do additive CALs work with only specific editions of server software, such as Standard Edition or Enterprise Edition, or do they work with any edition?

Generally, additive CALs can access any edition of the server software. For example, Exchange Server is available in both a Standard Edition server and Enterprise Edition server. The Exchange Standard CAL and Exchange Enterprise CAL may be used with either edition of the server software.

4. Are all CALs licensed in the same way?

Please consult the Microsoft [Product Terms](#) to find full information about the different Microsoft Client Access Licenses usage rights.

5. Can a single-server product have multiple additive CALs?

Yes. A single-server product can have multiple additive CALs. An example of this is Windows Server, which has Windows Active Directory Rights Management Services as well as Remote Desktop Services, each of which requires separate device and/or user CALs if used by a customer.

6. Do additive CALs come with the Core CAL Suite? For example, do Core CAL Suite customers receive rights to Remote Desktop Services and Active Directory Rights Management Services?

No. Additive CALs are not included in the Core CAL Suite. Additive CALs are only required when their corresponding functionality is used and they need to be licensed separately. However, additive CALs can be used in conjunction with the Core CAL Suite.

7. What additive CALs come with the Enterprise CAL Suite?

As shown in the May 2017 Microsoft [Product Terms](#), the additive CALs found in the Enterprise CAL Suite are: Exchange Server 2016 Standard, Exchange Server 2016 Enterprise, SharePoint Server 2016, Skype for Business Server 2015, Windows MultiPoint Server 2016 Premium (Academic only), Windows Server 2016 Standard, and the Windows Server 2016 Data Center.

8. Is the Enterprise CAL Suite an additive CAL to the Core CAL Suite?

No. CAL Suites are not additive. The Enterprise CAL Suite includes the components of the Core CAL suite, so customers may buy it without also buying the Core CAL Suite. Core CAL Suite licensees may buy a separate “step-up” license that converts their Core CAL Suite license into an Enterprise CAL Suite license.

9. What CALs come with the Enterprise CAL Suite and the Core CAL Suite?

The diagram below shows the components being offered in the Core CAL Suite and Enterprise CAL Suite. For more information about the Microsoft Core CAL Suite and Enterprise CAL Suite, visit [Client Access Licenses and Management Licenses](#).

Base and Additive Client Access Licenses (CALs): an explanation

CAL Suite Mapping

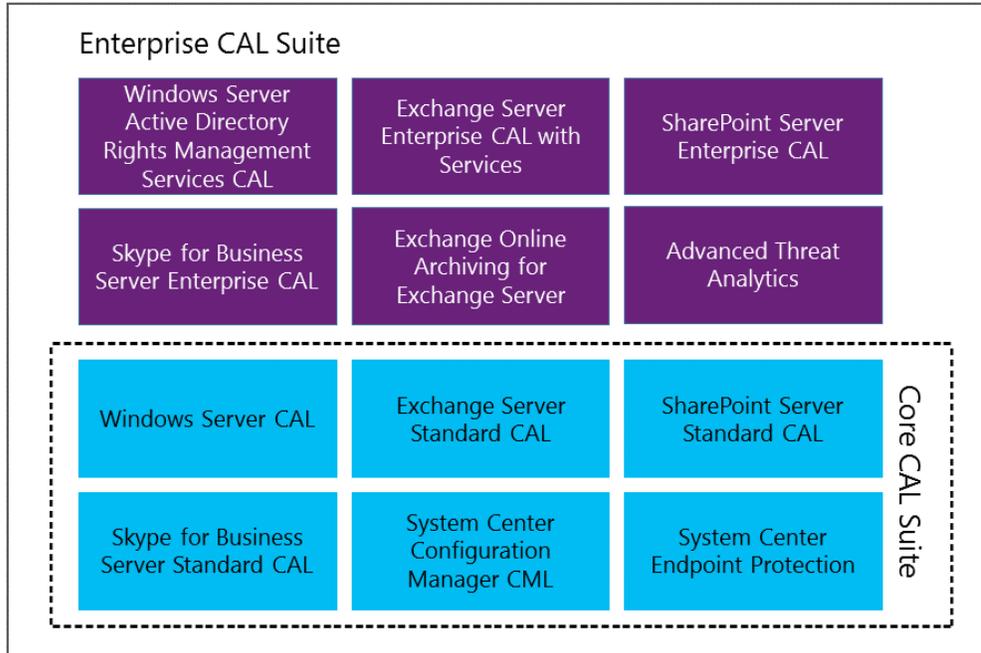


Figure 5: Core CAL Suite and Enterprise CAL Suite Components

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