



Microsoft Partner Network Programs Guide

Updated July 17, 2019

Contents

- 1 Microsoft Partner Network Programs Guide
- 3 Introduction to the Microsoft Partner Network Programs Guide
- 3 Program Administrator
- 4 Program Benefits
- 4 Technical Presales and Deployment Services
- 4 Product Licenses Terms of Use
- 7 Visual Studio – Developer Tools
- 7 Azure Services Benefits
- 7 Technical Support



Introduction to the Microsoft Partner Network Programs Guide

The Microsoft Partner Network is your entry point for partnership with Microsoft and with other partners. Whether you offer applications or services, our portfolio of programs, resources, and offers will help you:

- Grow your business by accelerating customer acquisition and value with increased visibility through improved selling experiences and new offers;
- Drive customer success and increase efficiency with new platform and tooling improvements;
- Differentiate your business so customers understand your areas of expertise and specialization.

This guide is intended to provide partners who purchase a Microsoft Action Pack Subscription or attain a competency with an overview of Microsoft Partner Network program rules and benefits. All benefits are provided to partners once they meet the eligibility criteria and purchased the appropriate offer.

Program Administrator

An administrator within a partner organization collaborates across their organization to manage program membership including enrollment, offer purchase, competency attainment, and benefits assignment to specific users within the organization. **Partners participating in the Microsoft Partner Network are responsible for tracking use and consumption of licenses and services provided through the program. Partners are also accountable for developing their own method of tracking license/benefit usage.**

[Review guidance about managing your membership.](#)

Program Benefits

Technical Presales and Deployment Services

[Technical Presales and Deployment Services](#) offer technical guidance based on real-world scenarios via interactive webinars and personalized technical consultations. These services help partners accelerate development, deployment, and sales of Microsoft cloud-based applications and services. Partners must be active members of Microsoft Partner Network. Access to services varies depending on the type of engagement partner wishes to have with a Microsoft partner technical consultant. Additional information available in [Using Technical Presales and Deployment Services](#).

Product Licenses Terms of Use

Some programs and offers in the Microsoft Partner Network include product licenses that are intended to help partners build innovative Microsoft-based apps and services. Refer to the license tables below for the current license grants for these programs and offers. The product licenses you will receive are what's listed in Partner Center at the time you meet requirements and/or pay the fee.

The current license grants are detailed in these license tables:

- [License table for Microsoft Action Pack Partners](#)
- [License table for Competency Partners](#)

Each partner is responsible for tracking the consumption of software and cloud services license entitlement. If a partner organization is selected for a compliance audit, that organization is responsible for presenting records regarding the active program licenses used and compliance to the terms of use. Licenses do not provide downgrade rights or any other Software Assurance services. If you need deployment, management, and other similar services, learn more about Software Assurance.

Product Licenses granted can be used for:

- Demonstration purposes. Sales and marketing employees of the organization can use this software to showcase products to your customers, but demonstration products cannot be installed on customer hardware or infrastructure and must be used with partner supervision.
- Solution/Services development purposes, including the development, testing and demos of solutions and services.
- Internal Training can be used for training internal employees only. Use for customer training is not permitted.
- Product licenses for internal use, in a development, test, demo, sandbox, or production environment for general internal business purposes and not for any type of commercial purpose.

Product Licenses granted to partners cannot be used for:

- Direct revenue-generating activities such as hosting a customer's applications or development of custom solutions for a specific client
- Employee personal use at home
- Installation of solutions or services at a customer site
- Customer training (except for learning partners)
- Resell or transfer to any third party

License Maximums – applicable to Partner Membership Center (PMC) only

Partners who attain a competency in Partner Membership Center are subject to maximum limits per organization at both the country and worldwide level for product licenses and Visual Studio subscriptions. These limits define the maximum licenses partner organizations can have, regardless of the number of licenses earned through the combination of core benefits, competency benefits, and Additional Benefit Toolkits for qualifying locations. These maximums cover all products and cloud services per partner organization.

Maximums are five times the initial grant for each product or cloud service within a single country, and fifteen times the initial grant worldwide. License maximums apply to program granted licenses only. If an organization has a combination of silver and gold competencies, the maximum cap is based on the highest competency earned for the country or organization for the worldwide max cap. Partners may share licenses across countries, but the total number of licenses used within a partner organization cannot exceed per country and/or worldwide maximum license caps.

For example, if the maximum license grant is 500 licenses for a certain product, and a partner has earned a total of 300 licenses in country X and 400 licenses in country Y for that product, the partner cannot use all 700 licenses earned within a single country. A maximum of 500 licenses can be used in country X or country Y. Hence, the partner could choose to assign 500 licenses to country X and 200 licenses to country Y. This same principle applies to the worldwide maximum license grant per partner organization.

Product Keys and Tokens

Some products and cloud services require a product key for installation and/or activation. Product keys for cloud services may also be referred to as tokens. Keys are issued per organization and not per end user of the organization.

Not all product and cloud services licenses require product keys for installation or activation. Partners can use any combination of methods and keys they have acquired through various Microsoft programs to activate machines, depending on their business and infrastructure needs, so long if the systems are properly licensed and appropriate use rights are applied.

On-premises Software Installation and Activation

If a product requires a product key for installation, the end-user will be prompted to enter a product key during the installation process. If a product key is not required, "Not Required" will be noted in the Product Key column.

Although some products require the entry of a product key during the installation process, not all products require product activation. Product activation is required for Windows server and client operating systems and all Microsoft Office client applications.

Some product keys issued are Multiple Activation Keys (MAKs). These products have finite number of installations, activations, or seats. A product key will stop working when all installations and activations have been consumed. Additional activations for these product keys will not be granted. Consumption behavior of activations on a product key differs between Action Pack subscribers and competency partners:

For the Microsoft Action Pack subscription, the product key activation behavior is based on scenario:

- If the software is installed on a new machine, one product activation is consumed against the product key.
- If the software is installed on the same machine with no significant hardware changes, product activation is not consumed against the product key.
- If the software is installed on the same machine with significant hardware changes, product activation is consumed against the product key.

For partners who attain a competency, each time a machine is activated, one of the product activations for that product key is consumed. This includes situations in which the same machine is reimaged and activated. Product keys may only be used in the license grant combinations as provided. For example, one 25 seat key cannot be adjusted to 5 different 5 seat keys.

On-premises software licenses issued are not perpetual. Partners are entitled and have the right to use these licenses only during their membership. Partners who opt not to renew their Microsoft Partner Network membership will need to obtain license rights via [Commercial Licensing](#) or un-install any on- premise software obtained via the Microsoft Partner Network.

Cloud Services Activation

Tokens are issued for cloud services. Partners may have multiple tokens for each online service. Tokens must be used in the format provided. For example, a 25-seat token cannot be split into 5 different 5 seat tokens so that the cloud service can be consumed under different tenants. **Program administrators who manage benefits must pay close attention during activation, because each token may only be activated one-time. Once a token has been activated for seats on a tenant, those seats may not be moved to another tenant.** Replacement tokens for cloud service activations on wrong tenant will not be provided.

Use rights for cloud services subscriptions terminates at the end of Microsoft Action Pack subscription or at the

end of a competency enrollment year. **Although Partners may continue to have access to cloud services past their program enrollment end date, they will no longer have use rights through the program.**

Each year when an organization renews a subscription or re-enrolls into the subscription/program with a competency, a new set of tokens will be issued based on the organization's entitlement at the time of re-enrollment. Partner program administrators are required to enter these new tokens on the Key Redemption Portal each program year to avoid a lapse in cloud services. Partners who opt not to renew their membership will need to obtain license rights via [Commercial Licensing](#).

Visual Studio – Developer Tools

Visual Studio Enterprise subscriptions are included with certain competencies. The Microsoft Action Pack subscription includes Visual Studio Professional subscriptions. All Visual Studio subscriptions are licensed per user and must be assigned and activated to be valid.

Sharing sign-in credentials is prohibited.

Visual Studio subscriptions allow designated employees in the partner organization to use the software and cloud services included within the Visual Studio subscription to design, develop, test, and demonstrate internal applications.

The products included in these Visual Studio subscriptions cannot be used for direct revenue-generating activities, such as providing consulting services, customizing a packaged application for a specific customer, or building a custom application for a customer, for a fee. They can be used for indirect revenue-generating activities, such as building a packaged application on the Microsoft platform, which is then marketed and sold to customers

Sharing

License entitlements are defined per organization. Your organization can share licenses across your associated locations. Partners cannot share licenses across separate organizations including affiliates and acquired companies that are not associated within the MPN membership profile of the partner who has Product License rights.

Azure Services Benefits

Partners may be eligible for either monthly or bulk credits, based on the competencies they attain.

- Monthly Credits, find out more here: [Azure Benefit for Microsoft Partner Network](#)
- Bulk Credits, find out more here: [Microsoft Azure Sponsorship Offer Details](#)

Technical Support

As part of their MPN benefits, partners receive two types of tech support incidents: Product Support Incidents and Signature Cloud Support (SCS) Incidents.

Product Support Incidents are subject to N-1 policy (see [MPN Partner support N-1 policy for on-premises products](#) for policy details). The N-1 support policy enables only newer on-premises products. N-1 includes the current product (N) and the previous product version (N-1). Older (N-2) products and any product where mainstream support has ended (see [Microsoft Lifecycle Policy](#)), are not covered by Product Support Incidents. Starting August 1, 2019, product support incidents will no longer be available. Partners already enrolled in Microsoft Action Pack, silver or gold competency prior to August 1, will retain the product support incidents they received through their current enrollments. Signature Cloud Support provides partners with cloud support to help keep their customers' services operating smoothly. SCS handles technical support scenarios for Microsoft Office 365, Microsoft Dynamics CRM Online, and Microsoft Azure. You can find out more in [Microsoft Partner Network technical benefits summary](#).

Go-to-Market Services

Go-To-Market Services is a portfolio of best-in-class marketing content and programs that help you accelerate time to market, drive demand, and expand your business. We operate at a global scale in over 170 countries and 14 languages, empowering you to unlock new growth opportunities for your business and leverage our vast ecosystem. Go-To-Market Services are included in your partnership with Microsoft. As a partner with a silver or gold competency you unlock additional benefits and the opportunity for purchasing incremental marketing solutions designed to take your business to the next level.

[Learn more or get started.](#)

Note: If you attained or renewed a competency after November 8, 2018 in Partner Center you can activate your go-to-market benefits in Partner Center. If you attained or renewed your competency in PMC after November 8, 2018 and moved to partner center shortly after that date, you can activate your benefits by submitting a request form on <https://partner.microsoft.com/campaigns/gtm-contact-form>. Microsoft may update, change or remove any portion of this offer at any time upon notice to you.