

Windows Terminal Server Overview with Licensing and System Requirements

Overview

On Microsoft® Windows Server 2003 family operating systems, the Terminal Server feature gives users at client computers throughout your network access to Windows-based programs installed on terminal servers. With Terminal Server, you can provide a single point of installation that allows multiple users access to the Windows Server 2003 family operating system desktop, where they can run programs, save files, and use network resources, all from a remote location, as if these resources were installed on their own computers.

For computers running Microsoft® Windows® XP or Windows Server 2003 family operating systems, the Terminal Services client program (Remote Desktop Connection) is already installed. Remote Desktop Connection can also be installed on other 32-bit Windows-based operating systems.

Terminal Server is not included in Microsoft® Windows® Server 2003, Web Edition.

Licensing Requirements

To use Terminal Server you will need the licenses listed below.

- 1) Windows Server license. Standard Edition or Enterprise Edition are available.
- 2) Windows CALs (These are included in the Desktop Pro licenses)
- 3) Windows Terminal Server CAL (You will need 1 CAL for every device that will access the features of Terminal Server)
 - **You will need to activate the Terminal Server CALs once they are installed. To activate the CALs please see How To Activate Terminal Server CALs below.**

How to activate Terminal Server CALs

Terminal Server Licensing overview Terminal Server has its own method for licensing clients that log on to terminal servers, separate from the licensing method for Microsoft® Windows Server 2003 family operating system clients. Clients must receive a valid license issued by a Terminal Server License Server before they are allowed to log on to a terminal server.

Important

If you use Remote Desktop for Administration, two concurrent connections can log on. You do not need a Terminal Server License Server for these connections. For more information on Remote Desktop for Administration, see Remote Desktop for Administration overview.

To use Terminal Server, you must also have a Terminal Server License Server. Before licenses can be issued to clients, you must first install a Terminal Server License Server on your network and activate it through the Microsoft Clearinghouse. Once activated, the Terminal Server License Server provides a secure way to install client license key packs and issue licenses to Terminal Server clients. When a client attempts to log on to a terminal server for the first time, that terminal server contacts the Terminal Server License Server and requests a license for the client.

Microsoft Clearinghouse

The Microsoft Clearinghouse is the database that Microsoft maintains to activate license servers and install client license key packs on Terminal Server License Servers that request them. The Clearinghouse stores information about all activated Terminal Server License Servers and key packs that have been issued. This helps you track client usage of the terminal servers within your organization to ensure that you have purchased a sufficient number of client licenses. The Microsoft Clearinghouse is accessed from the Terminal Server License Server Activation Wizard. You can also call them directly. Their phone number is (888) 571-2048. You will need the Army's Enterprise Master and Enrollment numbers.

License server

A Terminal Server License Server stores all client licenses that have been installed for a terminal server. A terminal server must be able to connect to an activated Terminal Server License Server before clients can be issued licenses. One Terminal Server License

Server can serve several terminal servers concurrently. The Terminal Server License Server should not be the same server on which you have installed Terminal Server.

Before installing the Terminal Server License Server, consider which of two types of license servers you require--a domain license server or an enterprise license server. During Terminal Server Licensing setup, you select which type of license server is required for your system--either a domain license server or an enterprise license server. By default, a license server is installed as an enterprise license server.

Warning

Terminal servers allow unlicensed clients to connect for 120 days from the date of the first client logon. After this evaluation period ends, a terminal server can no longer allow clients to connect unless it locates a Terminal Server License Server to issue client licenses.

Use the Terminal Server License Server Activation Wizard to activate a Terminal Server License Server. When a Terminal Server License Server is activated, the wizard confirms the identity of the terminal server and allows it to obtain licenses and issue them to your Terminal Server clients

Terminal Server

A terminal server is a server on which the Terminal Server component of the Windows Server 2003 family operating systems is installed. A terminal server gives client computers access to Windows-based applications that run entirely on the server, and supports multiple client sessions on the server. If a client does not have a license, the terminal server requests one from the Terminal Server License Server.

Note

You can use any computer running Windows Server 2003 family operating systems to administer servers remotely with Remote Desktop for Administration (formerly Terminal Services in Remote Administration mode). You do not need to install Terminal Server. A Terminal Server License Server and the Terminal Server Licensing administrative tool are not required for Remote Desktop for Administration.