

## Microsoft Changes 2012 SQL Licensing

By Julie Machal-Fulks

With its new SQL 2012 release, Microsoft plans to drastically change its licensing model. This change could have serious implications if companies are not proactively managing conversion of their licenses. For customers using SQL 2012, Microsoft will no longer allow companies to license SQL server on a processor-based model and instead has implemented a new licensing model that will be based on cores rather than physical processors.

Going forward, Enterprise Edition will only be licensed on a core basis, while the new Business Intelligence Edition and the previous Standard Edition can be licensed on either a core basis or server/CAL basis. A customer must purchase a minimum of 4 cores if it elects to license on a core basis. So if a machine has one processor and a single core, the customer must still purchase 4 core licenses. The price for 2012 SQL Server CALs is increasing by about 27%.

Microsoft is allowing its customers with Software Assurance a grace period to convert their processor licenses. If the client does not timely and correctly convert their licenses, Microsoft will impose default conversion metrics that are not favorable to its customers. It is important to follow all of the steps correctly to ensure that currently owned SQL Server processor licenses are converted to the maximum number of core licenses possible.

Enterprise customers can continue using the old license model until the expiration of their agreements, at which point the processor licenses will be converted to core licenses using the new model.

This change will affect each customer planning to use SQL Server 2012. Contact Scott & Scott, LLP to discuss the ways we can help your organization maximize your existing licenses and measure the impact of upgrading to SQL Server 2012.

To review the Microsoft Licensing Datasheet visit: [http://download.microsoft.com/download/5/9/5/59527629-ABD3-4C12-8117-DFABB86E2CFA/SQL2012\\_Licensing\\_Datasheet\\_USA\\_Dec2011.pdf](http://download.microsoft.com/download/5/9/5/59527629-ABD3-4C12-8117-DFABB86E2CFA/SQL2012_Licensing_Datasheet_USA_Dec2011.pdf)



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As a partner at Scott & Scott, LLP, Julie Machal-Fulks leads a team of attorneys in representing and defending clients in legal matters relating to information technology. Her practice focuses on complex litigation ranging from privacy and network security, data breach notification and crisis management, intellectual property disputes, service provider negligence claims, and content-based injuries such as copyright and trademark infringement in software, the Internet, and all forms of tangible media.

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