

# Client Access Licenses Suite Bridges Overview

This brief applies to all Microsoft Volume Licensing programs.

## Contents

Summary .....	1
What's new in this brief.....	1
Details .....	2
Introduction .....	2
Workloads and licensing.....	2
Overview of Client Access License Suite Bridges.....	7
Transitioning to online services with CAL Suite Bridges .....	8
Component CALs within each CAL Suite Bridge Monthly Subscription Unit.....	9
Example customer scenarios for CAL Suite Bridges .....	12
Additional scenarios and frequently asked questions .....	13

## Summary

Microsoft Client Access License (CAL) Suite Bridges are used when you are transitioning from a CAL Suite (on-premises) to a comparable product and online service combination.

## What's new in this brief

This brief replaces a previous version published in December 2015.

# CAL Suite Bridges overview

## Details

### Introduction

You can use Microsoft Client Access License (CAL) Suite Bridges when you transition from a CAL Suite (on-premises) to a comparable product and online service combination. As such, CAL Suite Bridges include those CAL Suite workloads not found in Microsoft Office 365 or Enterprise Mobility Suite cloud services. Using CAL Suite Bridges, existing CAL Suite customers can also retain their Microsoft Software Assurance coverage, enterprise-wide commitment, and corresponding platform discounts for workloads that are on-premises.

CAL Suite Bridges are Monthly Subscription Units (MSUs) that enable transitions to and from equivalent online services. As such, the following eligibility requirements apply:

- Customers can license each CAL Suite Bridge only with its qualifying online service to satisfy the companywide CAL Suite requirement.
- Customers must have active CAL Suite Software Assurance (Microsoft Core CAL Suite or Microsoft Enterprise CAL Suite) to purchase a CAL Suite Bridge.

Customers who aren't eligible to purchase a CAL Suite Bridge can purchase the individual technology licenses or subscriptions through a Microsoft Products and Services Agreement (MPSA) Volume Licensing Agreement.

### Workloads and licensing

To best understand what CAL Suite Bridges are, how they work, and why they're important, it helps to understand how Microsoft licenses its products on-premises. It also helps to understand how that license structure compares with those of Microsoft online services (for example, Office 365 and Microsoft Intune).

#### Microsoft products and the "stack"

Microsoft products include several major workloads, ranging from the underlying operating system to client desktop applications (for example, Microsoft Office), and everything else in between. Visually, these are shown as a "stack" because the workloads are layered.

# CAL Suite Bridges overview

Workload	Product(s)
Office Productivity	 Office
Productivity Servers	 Exchange Server  Skype for Business  SharePoint Server
Servers OS / AD	 Windows Server
Management & Security	 System Center
Client OS	 Windows

Figure 1: The Microsoft "stack" includes several major workloads. Each workload has one or more product families (for example, Microsoft Office and Microsoft Exchange Server). In addition, each product family has one or more individual products or technologies (for example, Microsoft Office Excel spreadsheet software and Exchange Server Standard Edition).

## Licensing Microsoft products on-premises

Traditionally, Microsoft has licensed the layered stack in the following groups for on-premises deployments:

- Office productivity: Microsoft Office is a traditional desktop application that's installed directly on the client device.
- CAL Suites: These include the CALs required for each of the underlying server products in the stack.
- Client operating system: Windows is an operating system installed directly onto the client device.

# CAL Suite Bridges overview

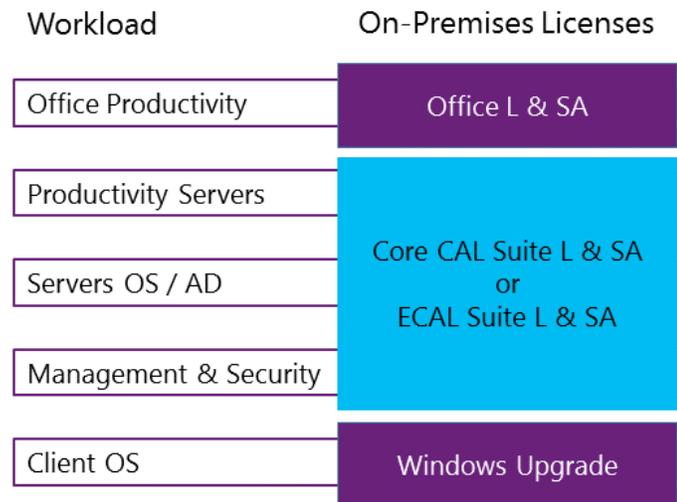


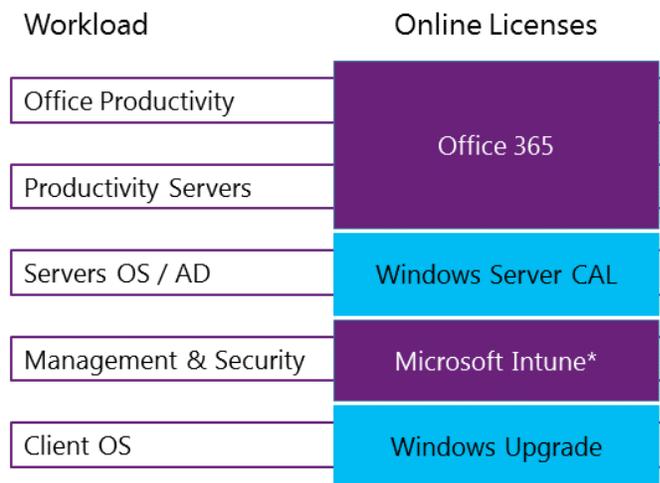
Figure 2: For licensing purposes on-premises, the stack is structured with the following components. Microsoft Office is licensed as a stand-alone client application, while access to the underlying productivity and infrastructure servers is licensed with the CAL Suites. The Windows operating system is installed on a client device.

# CAL Suite Bridges overview

## Licensing Microsoft products online

As software services, the Office 365 and Microsoft Intune software subscriptions include user rights to both server and desktop applications, which would require separate licenses if licensed on-premises.

Office 365, for example, represents a complete "service offer" for users and necessarily incorporates those required workloads (Microsoft Office productivity and productivity servers) within a single-user subscription license. As a result, the stack is licensed in a different way than its on-premises offering is licensed.



\*Microsoft Intune includes System Center Configuration Manager and System Center Endpoint Protection

Figure 3: For licensing purposes online (online services), the stack is structured with three components. The Office Suite and productivity servers are licensed together within Office 365, while the underlying security and management servers are licensed within Microsoft Intune. The CAL for the Windows Server operating system doesn't have an equivalent online offering and will continue to be licensed with a traditional (on-premises) Windows Server CAL.

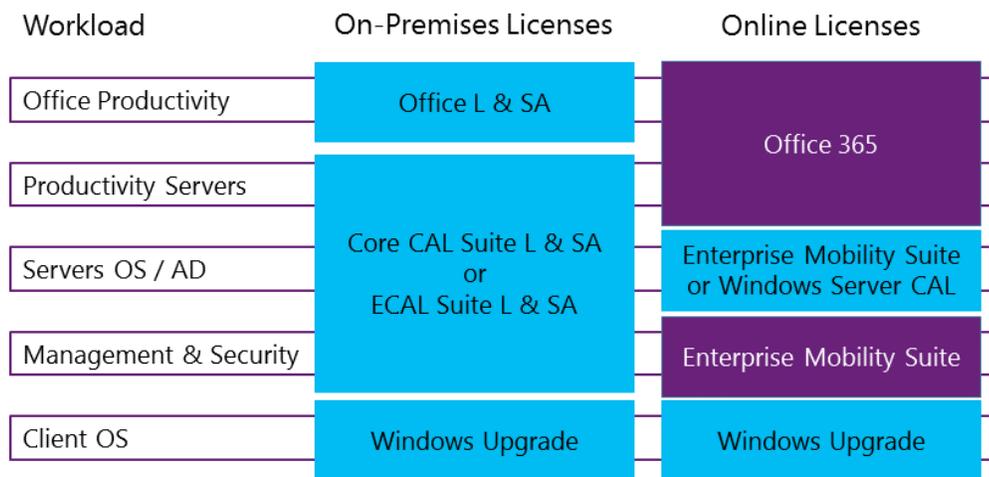
# CAL Suite Bridges overview

## Transitioning from on-premises to online services

The Microsoft Enterprise Agreement (EA) facilitates customers moving to the cloud by allowing them to convert existing licenses (with current Software Assurance) to an equivalent licensing subscription service offering (for example, Office 365, Enterprise Mobility Suite, and Microsoft Intune). More formally, a transition is defined in the following way:

A transition is the conversion of a license with current Software Assurance to or from a subscription license with a comparable workload.

When customers transition their licenses from on-premises to online services, they must “break up” their CAL Suite to license it the same as licensing for online services. Specifically, workloads licensed within the CAL Suites move to equivalent online services (for example, Office 365), while those workloads without an equivalent online offering are on-premises. Workloads that are on-premises make up the CAL Suite Bridges. As a result, customers can retain their current on-premises licensing rights and access rights to CAL Suite workloads on everything not found in Office 365, Enterprise Mobility Suite, or Microsoft Intune.



\*Microsoft Intune is part of the Enterprise Mobility Suite and includes System Center Configuration Manager and System Center Endpoint Protection

Figure 4: When customers transition licenses from on-premises to equivalent online services, they must “break up” the CAL Suite to license it the same as licensing for online services. Office 365, for example, includes elements of both the Office productivity and productivity server workloads. Given that, customers who are transitioning to Office 365 will license the Office productivity workload (for example, Microsoft Office) and the productivity server workloads (for example, Exchange Server) with Office 365. The remaining security, management, and operating system workloads are licensed within the corresponding CAL Suite Bridge.

# CAL Suite Bridges overview

## Overview of Client Access License Suite Bridges

CAL Suite Bridges include those CAL Suite workloads not found in Office 365 or Enterprise Mobility Suite. They allow existing CAL Suite customers to retain access rights to on-premises CAL Suite workloads, companywide commitment, and corresponding platform discounts for workloads that are on-premises.

### Benefits

CAL Suite Bridges have the following three primary benefits:

- Retain on-premises access rights: Current CAL Suite customers (Core CAL Suite and Enterprise CAL Suite with Software Assurance) retain access rights to CAL Suite workloads that aren't included in Enterprise Mobility Suite or Office 365 online services.
- Satisfy enterprise-wide commitment: CAL Suite Bridges satisfy the enterprise-wide requirement for Core CAL and Enterprise CAL Suite when paired with corresponding Enterprise Online Services.
- Retain enterprise discounts: With CAL Suite Bridges, customers receive enterprise and platform discounts at a level that is comparable to the replaced suite.

### Structure of CAL Suite Bridges

The structure for CAL Suite Bridges mirrors that of the existing Microsoft CAL Suites. Specifically, the following applies to CAL Suite Bridges:

- They're available for initial purchase as Monthly Subscription Units (MSUs).
- They're licensed per user.
- They're Enterprise Products and receive both enterprise-wide and platform discounts.

### How to buy CAL Suite Bridges

CAL Suite Bridges have the following eligibility requirements:

- An Enterprise Agreement with Enterprise Online Services terms enabled, either by amendment or a new Enterprise Agreement after July 2011.
- An enterprise-wide commitment for Core CAL Suite or Enterprise CAL Suite:
  - Users and devices assigned to Office 365 or Enterprise Mobility Suite are assigned the appropriate CAL Suite Bridge instead of the full CAL Suite. Users can only license each CAL Suite Bridge with its qualifying online service to satisfy the enterprise-wide requirement of either that CAL Suite Bridge or its parent CAL Suite.
  - Ensure that a CAL Suite License with active Software Assurance covers on-premises users and devices.

When a [transition](#) requires a CAL Suite Bridge, the customer can purchase a per user subscription license for the CAL Suite Bridge at the enrollment anniversary on which the transition is effective. In

# CAL Suite Bridges overview

such circumstances, the transition ratio can be only one CAL Suite Bridge User Subscription License (USL) for one qualifying Online Service USL. Customers who aren't eligible to purchase a CAL Suite Bridge can purchase the individual technology licenses or licensing subscriptions through a Microsoft Products and Services Agreement (MPSA).

## Transitioning to online services with CAL Suite Bridges

CAL Suite Bridges are operational SKUs used when a customer transitions from a CAL Suite to a comparable product and online service combination. Users can license a CAL Suite Bridge only with its qualifying online service.

The following table outlines the qualifying online services and required CAL Suite Bridges for each of the underlying Core CAL and Enterprise CAL Suites.

Initial CAL Suite	Qualifying Online Service	CAL Suite Bridge (required)
Core CAL Suite	Office 365 E1 <i>or</i> Office 365 E3 <i>or</i> Office 365 E5	Core CAL Suite Bridge for Office 365
Core CAL Suite	Enterprise Mobility Suite E3 <i>or</i> Enterprise Mobility Suite E5	Core CAL Suite Bridge for Enterprise Mobility Suite
Core CAL Suite	Microsoft Intune	Core CAL Suite Bridge for Microsoft Intune
Core CAL Suite	Office 365 E1, E3, or E5 <i>and</i> Microsoft Intune	Core CAL Suite Bridge for Office 365 and Microsoft Intune
Enterprise CAL Suite	Office 365 E3 <i>or</i> Office 365 E5	Enterprise CAL Suite Bridge for Office 365
Enterprise CAL Suite	Enterprise Mobility Suite E3 <i>or</i> Enterprise Mobility Suite E5	Enterprise CAL Suite Bridge for Enterprise Mobility Suite
Enterprise CAL Suite	Microsoft Intune	Enterprise CAL Suite Bridge for Microsoft Intune
Enterprise CAL Suite	Office 365 E3 or E5 <i>and</i> Microsoft Intune	Enterprise CAL Suite Bridge for Office 365 and Microsoft Intune

# CAL Suite Bridges overview

## Component CALs within each CAL Suite Bridge Monthly Subscription Unit

### CAL Suite Bridges for Enterprise Mobility Suite

The following table shows the CAL Suite on-premises technologies that are licensed by the CAL Suite Bridges for Enterprise Mobility Suite.

For a more detailed comparison of technology capabilities delivered through Enterprise Mobility Suite versus traditional on-premises server infrastructure, consult the descriptions of the [Enterprise Mobility Suite services](#).

Workload	Product	Core CAL Bridge for Enterprise Mobility Suite	Enterprise CAL Bridge for Enterprise Mobility Suite
Office Productivity	Office		
Productivity Servers/ Services	Exchange Standard CAL	✓	✓
	Exchange Enterprise CAL with Services		✓
	Skype for Business Standard CAL	✓	✓
	Skype for Business Enterprise CAL		✓
	SharePoint Standard CAL	✓	✓
	SharePoint Enterprise CAL		✓
	Exchange Online Archiving for Exchange Online		
	Exchange Online Archiving for Exchange Server		✓
Server Operating System/Active Directory	Windows Server CAL	✓	✓
	Windows Server RMS CAL		✓
Management and Security	System Center Configuration Manager CML	Enterprise Mobility Suite	Enterprise Mobility Suite
	System Center Endpoint Protection CML		
	Advanced Threat Analytics CML	Enterprise Mobility Suite	✓
Client Operating System	Windows Upgrade		

# CAL Suite Bridges overview

## CAL Suite Bridges for Office 365

The following table shows the CAL Suite on-premises technologies that are licensed by the CAL Suite Bridges for Office 365.

For a more detailed comparison of technology capabilities delivered through Office 365 versus traditional on-premises server infrastructure, consult the [descriptions of the Office 365 service](#).

Workload	Product	Core CAL Bridge for Office 365	Enterprise CAL Bridge for Office 365
Office Productivity	Office		
Productivity Servers/ Services	Exchange Standard CAL	Office 365	Office 365
	Exchange Enterprise CAL with Services		
	Skype for Business Standard CAL		
	Skype for Business Enterprise CAL		
	SharePoint Standard CAL		
	SharePoint Enterprise CAL		
	Exchange Online Archiving for Exchange Online		
	Exchange Online Archiving for Exchange Server		✓
Server Operating System/Active Directory	Windows Server CAL	✓	✓
	Windows Server RMS CAL		✓
Management and Security	System Center Configuration Manager CML	✓	✓
	System Center Endpoint Protection CML	✓	✓

# CAL Suite Bridges overview

	Advanced Threat Analytics CML		✓
Client Operating System	Windows Upgrade		

## CAL Suite Bridges for Office 365 and Enterprise Mobility Suite

The following table shows the CAL Suite on-premises technologies that are licensed by the CAL Suite Bridges for Office 365 plus Enterprise Mobility Suite.

Workload	Product	Core CAL Bridge for Office 365 and Enterprise Mobility Suite	Enterprise CAL Bridge for Office 365 and Enterprise Mobility Suite
Office Productivity	Office	Office 365	Office 365
Productivity Servers/ Services	Exchange Standard CAL		
	Exchange Enterprise CAL with Services		
	Skype for Business Standard CAL		
	Skype for Business Enterprise CAL		
	SharePoint Standard CAL		
	SharePoint Enterprise CAL		
	Exchange Online Archiving for Exchange Online		
	Exchange Online Archiving for Exchange Server	✓	
Server Operating System/Active Directory	Windows Server CAL	✓	✓
	Windows Server RMS CAL		✓
Management and Security	System Center Configuration Manager CML	Enterprise Mobility Suite	Enterprise Mobility Suite

# CAL Suite Bridges overview

	System Center Endpoint Protection CML		
	Advanced Threat Analytics CML	Enterprise Mobility Suite	☑
Client Operating System	Windows Upgrade		

## Example customer scenarios for CAL Suite Bridges

### CAL Suite Bridges for Enterprise Mobility Suite

Situation: A current Core CAL Suite customer deployed Microsoft Exchange Server and Microsoft SharePoint Server on-premises and wants to use the Enterprise Mobility Suite service to manage all the company PCs. The customer wants to keep Exchange Server and SharePoint Server on-premises and doesn't want to move those workloads to Office 365.

Solution: The Core CAL Suite customer purchases an Enterprise Mobility Suite licensing subscription for each of the company PCs. They then purchase Core CAL Suite Bridges for Enterprise Mobility Suite to license the Exchange Server, SharePoint Server, and the Windows Server operating system capabilities that aren't part of the Enterprise Mobility Suite licensing subscription service.

### CAL Suite Bridges for Microsoft Office 365

Situation: A current Enterprise CAL Suite customer wants to migrate users to Office 365 for email, communications, and collaboration. The customer has currently deployed Microsoft Exchange Server and SharePoint Server on-premises and wants to continue using on-premises Microsoft System Center Configuration Manager infrastructure to manage their company PCs. The customer also wants to continue using Windows Active Directory Rights Management Services to safeguard sensitive email, and, therefore, retain the current Active Directory structure as part of the Office 365 migration.

Solution: The customer purchases an Office 365 licensing subscription for each of the users requiring cloud-enabled email communications and collaboration. The Enterprise CAL Suite capabilities of System Center Configuration Manager, Active Directory Rights Management, and Windows Server Active Directory aren't part of the Office 365 licensing subscription service. Therefore, the customer purchases the appropriate number of Enterprise CAL Suite Bridges for Office 365 or Enterprise Mobility Suite to license these capabilities.

# CAL Suite Bridges overview

## CAL Suite Bridges for Microsoft Office 365 and Enterprise Mobility Suite

**Situation:** A customer currently uses all of the capabilities in Core CAL Suite, such as Windows Server, Exchange Server, SharePoint Server, and System Center Configuration Manager. The customer wants to migrate infrastructure to both Office 365 and Enterprise Mobility Suite online services, while maintaining the current Active Directory implementation to work with Enterprise Mobility Suite and Office 365.

**Solution:** The customer purchases the appropriate number of Office 365 user licensing subscriptions to gain cloud-enabled email and collaboration. The customer also purchases the appropriate number of Enterprise Mobility Suite licensing subscriptions for the number of devices they want to manage through the cloud. Lastly, the customer licenses the Core CAL Suite Bridge for Office 365 and Enterprise Mobility Suite to continue using Windows Server Active Directory capabilities.

## Additional scenarios and frequently asked questions

### What happens when CAL Suite Bridges aren't properly attached?

When a customer makes an enterprise-wide commitment to Core CAL Suite or Enterprise CAL Suite, they're required to cover Office 365 or Enterprise Mobility Suite users with the appropriate CAL Suite Bridge to satisfy their companywide commitment. When their enrollment expires, the customer can choose to not renew their CAL Suite commitment. In doing so, however, the customer loses current Software Assurance coverage on important CALs and Enterprise Agreement and platform discounts derived from a Core CAL commitment. The customer also loses favorable pricing for future transitions to Office 365. These are also derived from active Software Assurance coverage on the Core CAL Suite or Enterprise CAL Suite workload.

When a customer reports a transition to Office 365, as part of the process, Microsoft reduces the scheduled payment quantity for CAL Suite Software Assurance and increases scheduled payment quantities for CAL Suite Bridge Software Assurance at a one-to-one ratio.

Likewise, new qualified users and devices added to a customer's organization must be accounted for in the annual true-up report. If those new users or devices were given Office 365 or Enterprise Mobility Suite accounts, then the appropriate CAL Suite Bridge must also be "true-upped."

**Situation:** The customer currently has a Professional Desktop Agreement and wants to migrate branch offices to the Office 365 service. Branch offices are only 20 percent of the total enrollment, and the rest of the users will continue using on-premises technology.

**Option 1:** The customer migrates the branch offices to Office 365 and attaches the Core CAL Suite Bridge for Office 365, thereby satisfying the enterprise product requirement for those transitioning users. Therefore, the customer has also maintained their enterprise platform discount on all of the remaining on-premises Professional Desktop licenses.

**Option 2:** The customer migrates the branch offices to Microsoft Office but doesn't attach the Core CAL Suite Bridge for Office 365. Without the Core CAL Suite Bridge, the customer doesn't satisfy

# CAL Suite Bridges overview

the enterprise product requirement for the 20 percent of the enrollment for those branch users. Therefore, the customer no longer receives the enterprise platform discount for the 80 percent remaining professional desktop users. In addition, the customer must purchase stand-alone licenses for on-premises technology that isn't delivered in the Office 365 service, most notably Windows Server CAL.

## What if I'm a new Enterprise Agreement customer and want to purchase a CAL Suite Bridge?

A customer who has never previously entered into an Enterprise Agreement and wants to purchase an Office 365 licensing subscription can purchase a CAL Suite Bridge by doing the following:

- Satisfying the enterprise-wide commitment through a combination of CAL Suite Bridge and CAL Suites licenses.
- Committing to a full enrollment term for a CAL Suite Bridge or a CAL Suite.

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