

SQL Server License Review Service

With the recent licensing changes that Microsoft has implemented for SQL Server, we have found a great deal of confusion about exactly how these changes will impact our clients. Getting the licensing process wrong can have a significant impact on your organization.

Overview of the Service

The SQL Server License Review Service from House of Brick (HoB) can bring clarity to the process. Our experts know the in and outs of SQL Server licensing (all versions) from the agreement to system deployment. In the course of our review, we sit down with clients to identify and determine strategies for controlling future licensing costs. Our license reviews have considerably reduced our client's costs, while bringing them peace of mind by confirming that their needs are being met.

collaborative APPROACH

Our principal architects and consultants engage with clients to review the SQL Server installations they have running. Within that framework, our approach includes the following steps:

- Identify the version/edition of SQL Server
- Ascertain whether an extended support contract is in place
- Determine whether the client uses Software Assurance (SA)
- Identify all installations that exist for DR purposes and are not actively being used for Microsoft defined production use
- Establish the number of cores assigned per server (Four is the minimum for core based licenses in SQL Server 2012)
- Determine whether Core or CAL licenses models are being used by server
- Define which servers are virtualized and how the virtual machine's CPU resources are allocated
- Determine the best licensing method for virtual SQL servers, in order to meet uptime SLAs
- Establish the load on a SQL Server installation (optional)

customer DELIVERABLES

- Establish whether the client is licensed properly for all servers given release, virtualization, and new licensing rules from Microsoft
- Define the best migration path for new releases
- Determine potential license savings through the consolidation of SQL Server installations and/or different use of licenses

customer CONSIDERATIONS

- Produce copies of all SQL Server license contracts
- Share screen shots from Microsoft volume licensing site
- Provide access to any prior SQL Server license audits
- Participate with House of Brick in outlining organizational objectives and concerns
- Grant access to IT department leads for interviews with the House of Brick consultants conducting the assessment

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