

Windows External Connector License

Q. Why do I need a Windows External Connector (EC) license?

A. An EC license is not mandatory. It is a licensing option available to address a specific customer scenario. When you need to allow your business partners or customers to access your network, you have two choices:

- You can acquire Windows CALs for each of your external users, or
- You can acquire External Connector licenses for each Windows Server that those external users will access.

Q. For which Windows servers do I acquire EC licenses?

A. External Connector licenses should be acquired for each Windows server that the external user is accessing (not just for the server to which they are authenticating).

Q. Who qualifies as an External User?

A. An external user is a person who is not an employee, or similar personnel of the company or its affiliates, and is not someone to whom you provide hosted services using the server software.

Q. If a student accesses a school's network, is the student considered an External User?

A. Yes, and thus the student can be covered under an External Connector license.

Q. Can I acquire a Windows EC and downgrade it to use on a Windows 2000 server?

A. Yes. This is permitted, and its use on a Windows 2000 server maintains the rights of the External Connector license.

Q. Can I acquire a Windows Terminal Server External Connector (TSEC) and downgrade it to use on a Windows 2000 terminal server?

A. Yes. This is permitted. However, due to technical incompatibility, the TSEC will take on the rights and limitations of the Windows 2000 TS Internet Connector license—including access to the Windows 2000 terminal server being limited to anonymous access through the Internet and maximum 200 concurrent connections.

Q. What are the differences between External Connector and Internet Connector licenses?

A. Internet Connectors are applicable to Windows 2000 servers. They can be acquired for all of the following—instead of purchasing CALs for each of the Internet Users' devices:

- servers using Windows Server services (file, print, remote access, terminal services)
- servers requesting authentication
- servers validating authentication requests on behalf of Internet Users (users who are not employees or business partners)

TS Internet Connector also has some unique limitations as noted in questions above.

External Connector licenses are applicable to Windows Server 2003 servers. They can be acquired for servers which External Users will access—instead of purchasing individual CALs for each of the Users. Unlike Internet Users above, valid External Users include business partners.

Q. Why are you removing the Internet Connector (IC) and TS Internet Connector (TSIC) licenses?

A. These are being removed as licensing options because they have not sufficiently addressed customer needs and are confusing to apply. The availability of User CALs, Device CALs, and External Connector licenses should satisfy the vast majority of customer scenarios.

Q. Will the removal of the Internet Connector (IC) and TS Internet Connector (TSIC) licenses have an impact on me?

A. Customers who own Windows 2000 IC and TSIC licenses with Software Assurance attached can upgrade their licenses to a Windows Server 2003 External Connector (EC) and TS External Connector (TSEC) respectively, when they upgrade their server software to Windows Server 2003.

Customers who own Windows 2000 IC and TSIC licenses without SA attached, who want to provide their external users with access to their servers, will need to acquire new External Connector licenses when they upgrade their server software to Windows Server 2003. Alternatively, customers without SA could acquire CALs for each of their external users.