
DataFlex Licensing in Cloud & Virtual Machine Environments

Public “cloud” servers such as those provided by Amazon Web Services and Microsoft Azure, and premise based virtual machine (“VM”) environments such as Microsoft’s Hyper-V and VMWare offer a variety of flexibilities and benefits for application software deployment, testing and development. This document describes important licensing requirements for deploying DataFlex software and applications in cloud or virtual machine environments.

The fact that one hardware computer may host multiple VMs that can be freely moved from one hardware computer host to another or that software images of virtual cloud servers can be moved among cloud server instances or replicated to multiple server instances means that software licensing concepts must be elevated from the hardware machine to the virtual machine.

The Software License Agreement specifies that the virtual machine instance in which DataFlex software runs is the licensed operating environment. Whether cloud or premise based, any virtual machine instance running DataFlex Windows Clients or WebApp Server(s) requires a unique license, serial number and registration code.

The easiest way to understand, implement and comply with DataFlex licensing in virtual machine and cloud environments is to treat each VM instance the same as a single OS instance hardware computer. That is, from the perspective of the DataFlex deployment components, each running virtual machine is effectively a complete, stand-alone computer system that requires its own license.

The Software Licensing Agreement provided with each DataFlex product explicitly refers to how it is licensed when used in virtual machine environments. While the License Agreement is the authoritative source of our license terms and conditions, the following is an informal summary by license type of how Data Access Worldwide's products can be used in virtual machine environments and software users’ licensing responsibilities.

DataFlex Web Application Server (and its Connectivity Kit, if used) must be licensed for each cloud server or virtual machine instance that contains the product even if multiple VMs with the same DataFlex software are running on a single hardware machine. Using one Web Application Server license on multiple virtual machines or cloud servers is a copyright violation just as the use of one license on multiple hardware machines is a copyright violation.

DataFlex Windows Clients (and Connectivity Kits, if used) require a license for each concurrent user on each VM or cloud server instance to which an application user connects. User counting remains the essential metric for licensing Windows Clients in all environments. DataFlex application users are responsible to ensure that regardless of the underlying technology (standard operating system or VMs or cloud servers), no more than the total licensed number of end users concurrently use any DataFlex application on each server instance. Allowing more than the licensed number of users to connect to a licensed server instance or using one Windows Client license on multiple standard operating system installations or VMs or cloud servers are all copyright violations.

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