

Orbital – IBM Software Licensing Simplification

Our long-standing IBM heritage allows us to provide education and advice around the whole IBM software Licensing lifecycle. Whether you are looking to make your first purchase of IBM software, or an existing client needing to ensure compliance, Orbital can help by reducing complexity and ensuring our customers receive the most cost-effective options available.

Licensing options are:

- Passport Advantage (PPA)
- Software Subscription & Support Renewals
- Processor Value Unit (PVU) Licensing Model
- Sub-capacity Licensing

IBM Passport Advantage (PPA):

Passport Advantage and Passport Advantage Express are the comprehensive IBM offerings that cover software license acquisition, including Fixed Term Licenses, Software Subscription and Support, Product Upgrades and Technical Support under a single, common set of agreements, processes and tools. IBM operates Banding levels for its PPA clients, dependant on previous Software spend, which in turn determines discount levels on future purchases.

Orbital can help organisations better understand and manage their PPA contracts as per the following examples:

- setup a new PPA agreement (pre-requisite for purchasing any IBM software).
- ensure correct PPA Banding to get access to the best available discounts.
- Maintain valid support for existing IBM software – see IBM Software Subscription & Support Renewals section.
- migrate and merge agreements to provide single viewpoint of your IBM software estate
- change PPA administrator contact details (to ensure communications when staff move on)
- setup PPA Online – for easy web-access

IBM Software Subscription & Support (Maintenance) Renewals:

Renewing your IBM software is vital for maintaining access to IBM technical support and product upgrades.

By transacting your IBM software renewals through Orbital, you automatically gain access to our Renewals Service at no extra charge.

Some of the benefits this offers clients are included below:

- Automatic reminders when it's time to renew: ensure continued technical support/availability of product upgrades, and prevent costly reinstatement fees (3-4 x renewal costs).
- Merge anniversary dates to a convenient time for your business (e.g. at start/end of Financial Year)
- Pro-actively check what software you are licensed for; make recommendations to cease support (and save you money) for products no longer used
- Ensure that you are correctly licensed for the software you are utilising – mini-compliance audit
- Take advantage of better pricing for new software purchases when timed with your renewal.



IBM Processor Value Unit (PVU) Licensing Model:

Introduced in response to the widespread adoption of multi-core chips, IBM changed its main licensing model from per processor to a per PVU model; as per the table below.

License cost is determined by the processor family and number of cores in a server in an attempt to provide a fairer price/performance match for all customers.

Processor Families		Processor Type						PVUs per Processor Core
Vendor	Brand	One-Core (1)	Dual-Core (2)	Quad-Core (4)	Hexa-Core (6)	Octi-Core (8)	IFL Engine	
IBM	POWER6 (see note 1)		■					120
IBM	System z10						■ ²	
IBM	POWER5		■					100
IBM	System z9, z990, S/390 ³						■ ²	
Fujitsu	SPARC64 VI		■					
HP	PA-RISC		■					
Intel®	Itanium®		■					
Sun	UltraSPARC IV		■					
Any	Any single core	■						
IBM	POWER6 (see note 1)		■					80
IBM	PowerPC 970		■					50
IBM	POWER5 QCM			■				
AMD	Opteron		■	■				
Intel®	Xeon®		■	■				
Sun	UltraSPARC T2			■	■	■		
IBM	PowerXCell™ 8i	■ ⁴						30
IBM	Cell/B.E.™	■ ⁴						
Sun	UltraSPARC T1			■	■	■		

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Notes:

¹ System p 520, System i 520, Power 520, BladeCenter JS12 and BladeCenter JS22 models require 80 PVUs per core. All other POWER6 processor-based models require 120 PVUs per core.

² Each IFL or CP engine is equivalent to 1 processor core.

³ Refers to System z9, eServer zSeries, or System/390 servers.

⁴ Entitlements required for PPE cores only.

Orbital is well-positioned to help clients understand what can be a complex licensing process, to ensure that correct and compliant licensing, at a suitable price-point is achieved.

IBM Sub-capacity Licensing:

Clients running certain virtualised server environments can now benefit from reduced software licensing costs by taking advantage of IBM's Sub-capacity licensing model. Essentially this means you can pay for just the processor cores that are running particular software applications, rather than all cores on a server.

Certain restrictions apply to this programme, such as running IBM monitoring software (at no additional charge), to ensure correct usage. Orbital can provide full details on this programme as required.

About Orbital:

Orbital has been a leading IT solutions provider for 10 years, with a focus on delivering world-class IT solutions on-time and on-budget, and to consistently exceed our client's expectations.

The company maintains a strong partnership with IBM, in order to provide best-of-breed technology offerings in the Enterprise Integration and Systems + Storage Management arenas. Orbital also offers a uniquely flexible approach to IT Consultancy – with an experienced pool of resource constantly being refreshed and updated with the latest skills as per market demands.

We provide both on and off-shore capabilities in specific technology fields, as well as the more generic but highly important areas of Project Management, Business Analysis etc.

Orbital operate a consistent and proven Services framework approach to ensure project success. In addition, we have a bespoke Software Development and Support division meaning we are well positioned to meet your end-end requirements, (design and architecture, implementation, delivery and support) or at any specific point in a project lifecycle.

This structure enables Orbital to be agile enough to meet the complex needs of our clients both today and tomorrow.