



## Platinum~Pro: SQL Server Licensing & Support

Introduction.....	1
Overview.....	2
Microsoft SQL Server .....	2
Supported Versions .....	2
Licensing .....	3
Disclaimer .....	3
Modes .....	3
Client Access Licence .....	3
Multiplexing.....	4
Authorised Access.....	4
Forms Authentication .....	4
Windows Authentication .....	4
Runtime Licensing.....	5
CAL Maintenance.....	5
Considerations.....	6
Upgrade Options.....	6
Operating System Variants .....	6

This information is based on Delta Financial Systems understanding of the current legislation. You should not rely solely on the information provided by Delta Financial Systems but should also form your own opinion as to the practical applications of the current legislation.

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## Introduction

This document has been produced to help you gain a better understanding of Microsoft SQL Server's licensing rules and to highlight the options available when upgrading from Delta Module Manager to Platinum~Pro.

This guide is generally aimed at SME's whom:

- do not already have a SQL Server implementation; or
- currently operate an unsupported version SQL Server; and/or
- do not have access to an [appropriate] existing volume licence agreement.

**Note:** Larger organisations may still find a lot of the information useful.

## Overview

Platinum~Pro is Delta's new pension administration tool. It brings together our previous applications SIPP~Pro, SSAS~Pro and Delta Module Manager (DMM) under one umbrella, thus providing better integration and seamless administration. Like the DMM application before it, Platinum~Pro requires Microsoft SQL Server to host its database files.

## Microsoft SQL Server

Microsoft SQL Server is a relational database management system (RDBMS). It is a software product with the primary function of storing and retrieving data as requested by other software applications e.g. Platinum~Pro. The data stored by SQL Server on behalf of Platinum~Pro ranges from customer information e.g. member credentials and fund values to the binary files used construct and update the 'front end' presentation from a web browser i.e. Microsoft Internet Explorer or Google Chrome.

**Note:** Applications which retrieve and present data from a DBMS are sometime referred to as the 'front end' with the DBMS inversely called the 'back end'.

## Supported Versions

There are currently three supported<sup>1</sup> versions of Microsoft SQL Server<sup>2</sup> (2012, 2014 and 2016). In addition there are edition variants like Express, Standard, Enterprise, Small Business Server and 32/64-bit editions to manage and test new releases against.

**Note:** Microsoft's mainstream support for SQL Server 2012 (SP3) expires 11<sup>th</sup> July 2018 however extended support will continue (where eligible).

As part of our development strategy Delta endeavour to support as many versions of database platforms as practically possible, however we have to perform in-depth testing for each supported version and we need infrastructure in place to be able to recreate any scenario the client may have. Standard market practice is to support the current and previous version. We recognise however that IT infrastructure upgrades can be costly, especially for small businesses. To this end we will provide support for Platinum~Pro's use on SQL Server 2012 with the following cumulative caveats:

- The SQL instance is currently active in your environment and hosting your current Delta Module Manager Databases.
- The SQL instance is patched with the latest service pack available (SP3 at the time of writing).

In an attempt to offer forward guidance, we will stop supporting Platinum~Pro on SQL Server 2012 from **1<sup>st</sup> April 2018**. This means we will not test any routines against this version of SQL and any issues encountered on this SQL Platform thereafter will not be supported by Delta.

**Note:** Microsoft SQL Server product support lifecycle details can be viewed here:

<http://support.microsoft.com/lifecycle/search/?sort=PN&alpha=SQL>

<sup>1</sup> – Microsoft Mainstream Support

<sup>2</sup> – Standard Edition

## Licensing

### Disclaimer

The following information has been carefully researched and collated in order to provide our customers with guidance on licensing Microsoft SQL Server for the sole use of hosting Platinum~Pro databases. This represents Delta Financial Systems interpretation of the information available at the time of writing and it is the end users responsibility to ensure conformity to Microsoft's rules and regulations.

### Modes

There are two main Microsoft licensing models:

- **Server+CAL (Client Access Licence):** provides the option to licence users and/or devices and then have low-cost access to incremental SQL Server deployments.
- **Core-Based:** gives customers a more consistent licensing metric.

**Note:** Typically, smaller customers will operate a Server+CAL model to keep down costs however until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018, it could be more economical for clients with 25+ users to invest in core licensing. Please ask for further details.

### Client Access Licence

When licensing SQL Server software under the Server+CAL model, customers must purchase a server licence for each server plus a client access licence (CAL) for each device (Device CAL) and/or user (User CAL) accessing SQL Server or any of its components.

**Note:** A CAL is not software; it is a licence granting users and devices access to the SQL Server software.

## Multiplexing

Platinum~Pro differs from Delta Module Manager because it 'piggybacks' on existing technology i.e. it is presented via a web browser. Microsoft calls this type of operation 'Multiplexing'.

*"Multiplexing refers to the use of hardware or software to pool connections, reroute information, or reduce the number of devices or users that directly access or use SQL Server. Multiplexing can also include reducing the number of devices or users SQL Server directly manages."*

- Multiplexing does not reduce the number of Microsoft licenses required. Users are required to have the appropriate licenses, regardless of their direct or indirect connection to SQL Server.
- Any user or device that accesses the server, files, data or content provided by the server that is made available through an automated process requires a SQL Server CAL.
- The number of tiers of hardware or software between the SQL Server and the user or devices that ultimately use its data, services, or functionality does not affect the number of CALs required.
- SQL Server CALs are required for users or devices that input data into, query, or view data from a SQL Server database through a pooling device (such as a the CRM server). This includes users who view data through web-based applications or enter information into a database through an intermediary product.

**Note:** Further reading can be found here:

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/Licensing/learn-more/brief-multiplexing-CALs.aspx>

## Authorised Access

Any device with a web browser could be considered to have the ability to access the Delta Platinum~Pro SQL databases<sup>3</sup> because even a failed attempt to login would technically constitute a query (as mentioned in 'Multiplexing' section above). This notion can be quashed though as a secondary requirement is needed when considering your licensing implications. Any person (or device) accessing Platinum~Pro also has to have been granted '**Authorised**' access. This can be attained by way of two built in options for authentication in Platinum~Pro.

### Forms Authentication

Users are created within the 'User Management' page of the website and stored in the 'Security' database. A user will then be required to enter these credentials at the Platinum~Pro log in page.

### Windows Authentication

Upon opening Platinum~Pro the user will be logged in seamlessly (providing the user's Windows login has been added into Platinum~Pro the 'User Management' page).

**Note:** This authentication type is only available to customers subscribing to the Price Per Member (PPM) licensing model.

<sup>3</sup> – Providing it is on the same network.

## Runtime Licensing

As a software vendor, Delta can offer Microsoft SQL Server licenses under the Microsoft Independent Software Vendor (ISV) Royalty Licensing Program. More information about ISV can be found here:

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/Licensing/licensing-programs/isv-program.aspx>

The two main reasons for utilising this program are lower costs and convenience. The current pricing (at the time of writing) for SQL Server 2016 ISV licenses is as follows:

- Standard Edition (including 1 x CAL) = £105.00 + VAT
- Additional CAL (Device or User) = £105.00 + VAT

**Note:** These prices are for licenses only and do not cover the SQL Server installation or configuration.

SQL Server runtime licenses supplied by Delta can only be used to host our applications. If you foresee the need to host other databases on the same instance as the Delta databases then this solution will not be for you. In this scenario you may wish to obtain your licenses from an alternative source and/or install two separate SQL instances using separate licensing.

**Note:** Enterprise Edition licenses are also available. Contact Delta for more information if you feel this is required.

## CAL Maintenance

If you choose to adopt a Server+CAL licensing model (whether independently or through Delta) you will be required to continually monitor your compliance against the terms of Microsoft End User Licence Agreement (EULA) appropriate to your SQL version.

If Delta is performing your installation then we will check Platinum~Pro and SQL Server for any authorised access accounts (individual or group<sup>4</sup>) and provide advice on the number of CAL's required. The maintenance and support of a client's IT environment is the responsibility of that client and once the handover is complete, Delta will not be able to monitor your compliance.

<sup>4</sup> – If Active Directory is not be accessible to Delta then we can only advise when a group has permitted access and not the number of people (CAL's required) in said group.

**Note:** Where Delta provide the SQL Server CAL's, additional requirements should be communicated to Delta in writing in order for the new licenses to be issued.

## Considerations

### Upgrade Options

Clients with an existing Delta Module Manager installation are not required to replace or reinstall their SQL Server installation, providing that it meets the minimum requirements for Platinum~Pro<sup>5</sup>.

**Note:** Delta Module Manager and Platinum~Pro can coexist on the same instance.

At the time of writing, there are three versions of SQL Server supported by Delta:

- 2012<sup>6</sup>
- 2014
- 2016 (recommended)

Delta are happy for our clients to supply and install their own Microsoft SQL Server or they can utilise an existing installation providing that it has sufficient spare resources. Alternatively you may wish to consider purchasing new licenses via Delta as the Runtime Licence offers savings over the 'off-the-shelf' version.

**Note:** Should you require Delta to perform a SQL Server installation/upgrade then please contact us for a quotation. If you wish to undertake yourself then Delta can still supply SQL Server runtime licenses as required.

<sup>5</sup> – See document 'IT Requirements v2.0'.

<sup>6</sup> – Delta support expires 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018.

### Operating System Variants

Microsoft SQL Server will install on several Microsoft Windows operating systems, however Delta Financial Systems is currently limiting our support to Windows Server 2012 and above<sup>7</sup>.

General supported hardware and software for SQL versions can be accessed here:

<http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms143506.aspx>

<sup>7</sup> - Excluding Windows Small Business Server variants.