

Pervasive PSQL Server Licensing for Virtual Servers, Standby Systems, and Clusters

We've had some questions recently about the licensing policy related to using PSQL for clusters, virtual servers and standby systems. Those of you buying online have already seen that we've updated the license administration utility and that keys are activated and deactivated differently than in the past. Check out the January 2009 Tech Tip for more details:

http://lp.pervasive.com/content/Pervasive_PSQL_NL_January09_Webv

The policy for each of these types of installations is consistent with the way Pervasive licenses for use on a single physical server – **a license for PSQL is required for each server (physical, cluster, virtual or standby) where the PSQL database is active (where the database is being used).**

Active vs. Passive: Pervasive defines an active system as one that has database connections and/or ongoing reads or writes. If PSQL is installed on a system that has no connections and is not reading or writing data, it is passive and does not require a license. It is acceptable to install a copy of PSQL without a license as long as that installation is not active.

Moving vs. Copying Licenses: Pervasive permits moving server licenses from one system to another. This means deactivating the license on one server and activating it on another. Moving a PSQL license is acceptable as long as the platform doesn't change and the user count doesn't increase. Copying server licenses from one machine to another (using the same license key on more than one server) is not allowed and is a violation of the terms of the License Agreement.

For systems operating as hot backups, load balancing servers, real-time failover or other instances where the time involved in moving a license may negatively affect overall performance, Pervasive recommends treating these cases as active installations and licensing PSQL for each system. For a more detailed discussion and examples of active and passive systems, take a look at the FAQ.

Because of the new form of license administration, *currently only affecting online purchases*, there are some details that are important for virtual servers and standby servers.

Virtual Server – Licenses keys from online purchases must be enabled by Pervasive to work in a virtual environment.

Standby Server – The new form of license administration allows PSQL license to be active on only one server at a time. Attempting to apply a currently active key to another machine will fail and generate an error. To move the key from an active server to a standby server requires that the key be deactivated on the active server and then activated on the standby server. In the case where the active server has failed (and the PSQL license administrator is inaccessible), customers must contact Pervasive to deactivate the key.

We're available Monday – Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM CST. If a standby server is required outside of those hours, **the best thing to do is download a PSQL trial and apply that key to the standby server.** This will enable a 20-user license for 30 days and will allow the standby server to operate until a) Pervasive can deactivate the key so it can be applied to the standby server, or b) the original server operation is restored.

Next Steps

These processes are short term fixes on the way to an improved method of license management that will require changes to the database and the license administration system. Pervasive is working on solutions which will enable license keys for virtual environments by default and allow users access to license management without requiring the use of the PSQL license administrator utility.

Who to Call for Virtual Server Activation or Failed Server Deactivation

- In the U.S., contact Pervasive at 800.287.4383, option 1, and then option 2.
- In Europe, dial 00800.1212.3434.