

KeyServer for Enterprise-level Computing

**IT Departments faced with managing thousands of computers
have an effective tool for multi-continental desktop support.**

Enterprise-Level (Global) Support

A single KeyServer, hosted on any one of the many supported operating systems, can support up to 50,000 clients and an unlimited number of file servers. KeyServer's extremely low network overhead and light weight CPU demand eliminates potential bottlenecks which are common in all other software license management systems.

Alternatively, a company may choose, for management convenience, to place separate KeyServers in major geographic regions. Or a company may wish to divide KeyServer support into smaller regions to allow regional managers to have autonomy.

Load Balancing

The issue of how many KeyServers to use for global or enterprise-level support is not driven by technical limitations. Unlike metering systems that start to degrade network performance with only a few hundred clients, one KeyServer will support tens of thousands of clients with negligible impact. The complexity of "load balancing" among multiple servers (required on competing systems) is completely unnecessary with KeyServer. IT organizations are free to design their KeyServer infrastructure to match the organization of their management groups.

Fail-Over Support

KeyServer is unique in providing for fault-tolerant redundancy. No other software management system provides fault-tolerant "shadow server" support. An unlimited number of KeyShadow servers can be installed globally to support end users in the event of a network failure. In the event of a failure, the appropriate shadow server will handle requests from isolated clients until connectivity is restored to the KeyServer.

KeyServer will also accurately manage license usage through server crashes without causing any inconvenience to the clients. Licenses lost through client desktop crashes are automatically and transparently recovered within ten minutes. Even in installations where KeyServer is supporting tens of thousands of clients, it can efficiently reconcile license discrepancies due to client or server crashes.

Manage All Types of Software Licenses

In addition to managing concurrent-use licenses, KeyServer is unique in its ability to manage single-user licenses. Regardless of the type of license being managed KeyServer will help to gain the most efficient use possible.

Reclaim and Redistribute Abandoned Software Licenses

As part of KeyServer's management of single-user licenses, it identifies abandoned licensed copies of software and provides a facility within its central management console for reclamation and redistribution of single-user licenses.

Two Ways to Manage Software

KeyServer offers both a secure management solution and a convenient "auto-discovery" based metering solution. Applications can be "keyed" using KeyServer's unique, secure control method that prevents software piracy. Or, KeyServer can be told to auto-discover and manage applications

that are already installed on end-user computers and on network file servers, including new applications that have been installed by others around the network.

Manages Software Anywhere

The same degree of access control is centrally managed for both server-based applications and local, desktop-based applications. This is a basic KeyServer feature, which many other products do not support or support only when a customer opts to purchase additional add-in modules.

Network Traffic

KeyServer's communications between client and server are extremely lightweight on the network. Of the license management products available today, no other product generates less network traffic than KeyServer. While each of the others all generate between 1 MB to 4 MB of network traffic per client per 8-hour day, KeyServer clients generate approximately 24 K of network traffic per 8-hour day under normal load.

Customer sites have reported excessive network traffic experiences with several currently available software license management systems. We strongly recommend that any company considering WAN-level license management conduct tests for network traffic and scalability. To that end Sassafras provides interested parties with testing tools.

Administration

Administrative security is managed through a two-level access model that can be extended to multiple levels across a broad regional support group through KeyServer's global referral system.

A single KeyServer can be deployed to support a local network or global WAN or, optionally, an unlimited number of peer-level, regional, or departmental managers can be permitted to control their own separate pools of applications, users and licenses.

Each peer-group may have exclusive access to their own pools of applications, users and licenses while optionally having common access to "enterprise-level" applications and licenses. At each peer-group level, administrative passwords are managed on a two-tiered access basis.

The resulting hierarchy supports 'senior' administrative privileges and 'assistant' administrative privileges both at the peer-level and at the global enterprise level. An identical, two-tiered level of administrative access is facilitated for senior and assistant privileges at the global enterprise level.

Authentication

KeyServer supports all common third-party authentication processes, including Active Directory, the NT Domain system, Novell NetWare, AppleShare and others. KeyServer offers a more extensive range of choices for user authentication than any other software license management system.

Usage Reporting

KeyServer optionally generates extensive usage logs to two locations. Internal logs are stored in tab-delimited text format for use by KeyServer's fourteen standard reports. Additionally, usage data can be streamed through any ODBC interface to any SQL database or SQL server. Any ad-hoc SQL reporting tool, such as Crystal Reports®, can be used to perform ad-hoc queries for usage and user reporting.

Additionally, if employing multiple KeyServers across a global network, each KeyServer can be configured to either stream usage data to its own SQL server, or all KeyServers can be configured to stream data to a common, enterprise-level SQL server.

Contact us for an Evaluation Copy or Further Information

Contact Sassafras Software at: info@sassafras.com or by phone at 603-643-3351.