Shared Computer Activation

In September 2014, Microsoft enabled Shared Computer Activation (SCA) mode in Office 365 which enables multiple Office 365 ProPlus users to share the same hardware in the following three scenarios:

- Customer dedicated self-hosted (on-premise)
- Dedicated third-party hosted
- Windows Azure environment

The shared computer activation feature is notable for organisations that don't necessarily provide dedicated machines for each end user. It's now possible to share a computer or a virtual machine with Office 365 solutions among multiple users. That capability is available across all of Microsoft's product offerings with regard to Office 365 ProPlus, Project Pro for Office 365, or Visio Pro for Office 365.

What this essentially means is that any Office 365 customer licensed with Office ProPlus, E3 and above has rights to run offfice on a Remote Desktop Server. Previously, businesses could not use that right on a shared hosted platform such as IaaS.

"As a Shared Computer Activation Partner, Softsource now has the ability to offer Office 365 in any scenario, giving customers the ability to respond to the changing demands of their business, combining locally hosted Desktop Services and Office 365 on a Hybrid IaaS platform.
Businesses can scale their network on demand, without the need to invest in hardware, accessing resources immediately as and when they are needed right here in New Zealand.
This adds significant benefits to any organisation's business continuity capability, along with addressing many of the common data sovereignty concerns shared by New Zealand businesses as the service is hosted locally."

David Small, CTO, Softsource Ltd

Softsource is an approved SCA for Office 365 ProPlus Program provider, contact us now to discuss how we can help.

"In response to growing requests from customers to deploy Office 365 in a locally hosted Data Centre, we are delighted to announce our accreditation as New Zealand's first Microsoft Cloud Solution Provider for hosted Office 365 using Shared Computer Activation (SCA)" says Pablo Garcia, General Manager at Softsource. "This means that we can now offer our customers the flexibility of choice in terms of where and how they prefer to access Office 365, either locally here in New Zealand, or in the Azure Public Cloud on a pay as you go basis."

Benefits of Shared Computer Activation

The main outcome of SCA for Office 365 ProPlus is that it gives businesses choice and flexibility. SCA allows customers to take advantage of existing Office 365 (E3 and above) licensing investments when deploying to the cloud.

Customers are able to make a deployment choice between on-premises, entrada and Microsoft's Azure shared data centre to help lower cloud infrastructure costs by letting Softsource use your existing Office 365 ProPlus licenses. Organizations can utilize Shared Computer Activation, to allow their users to connect to services from anywhere in the world from any device or location on a single license.

This flexibility ultimately opens the door for businesses to benefit from the scalability of cloud, helps lower cloud infrastructure costs and makes our customers organisations more productive and efficient.