Understanding the Pervasive PSQL v11 License Agreement

If you have never read the Pervasive PSQL v11 License Agreement – the one that you accept every time you install the software - you are not alone. Most people never read licenses - they just click “Accept” and forget all about it. There are two good reasons to read and understand what’s in these agreements: 1) to make sure that the license rights match your business requirements (in other words, make sure you’ve picked the right product), and 2) understanding what you are allowed to do with the software will help keep you from potentially expensive compliance problems.

According to IDC, companies are spending an average of 15 percent of their IT budgets on risk and compliance management. Reviewing and understanding end user license agreements can certainly help reduce that risk. This paper will identify and review some of the more important sections of The Pervasive PSQL v11 License Agreement and provide guidance about which Pervasive products fit particular distribution models. Where relevant, the specific section of the License Agreement is included next to the paragraph header.

License for Server and Workgroup, License for Client
Pervasive has a license agreement for the Server and Workgroup products and another license for Clients. Client licenses are in place primarily to restrict the use of the client software to support of and use with PSQL Workgroup, Server or Vx Server. Client has no concept of user count or the number of copies (except that copies are to be used solely for accessing a PSQL engine). Client software is included with Workgroup, Server and Vx Server media and can be downloaded from the Pervasive website for no charge. This paper will focus on the terms of the Server and Workgroup license.

License = Restricted Right to Use (Not Ownership) (Section 2. License)
What you pay for when you buy a software license is the right to use the software under a given set of rules. For Pervasive PSQL Workgroup and Server, the right to use the software is a license for a specific number of users to simultaneously access the database on a single machine. For Pervasive PSQL Vx Server, this means a specific capacity (sessions and data – more on this later) on one or more machines. There are some restrictions on those rights to use – Pervasive retains all rights, title and interest in the software, and the rights to use the software granted in the license may not be transferred or sublicensed without written approval from Pervasive.

From Perpetual On-Premise to Subscriptions in the Cloud
Until recently, most software licenses have been perpetual and for a single on-premise machine. However, more and more are term limited (subscriptions) and in the cloud. Keeping track of concurrent users on a single machine is not a problem. Doing the same thing in an environment full of virtual machines and users accessing the application via the Internet is a lot more difficult. This shift in software use models has prompted the addition of a new licensing model for a new edition of Pervasive
PSQL – capacity based licensing for Pervasive PSQL Vx Server. Before we cover the licensing new model, let’s look at a more familiar one.

**Perpetual/On-Premise -> Concurrent Use Licenses – Pervasive PSQL Server and Pervasive PSQL Workgroup (Section 1. Definitions, Section 2. License)**

Pervasive PSQL Workgroup and Server both have perpetual concurrent user licenses – the customer pays for a specific number of users to access the database simultaneously and the license doesn’t expire. PSQL Workgroup is limited to 5 users, while PSQL Server starts at 6 users and goes to 500. PSQL Server and PSQL Workgroup are licensed for one machine at a time (It’s ok to move an instance of PSQL Server or Workgroup from one machine to another, but not to create a copy to put on another machine.)

**Using Terminal Server? Make sure to count all users correctly (Section 2.2. Multiplexing)**

Lots of customers use terminal servers as a simple way to access a database server. That’s fine – it’s a great technical solution – but it is important to remember that using a terminal server doesn’t reduce size of the concurrent user license that is required for PSQL. For example, if you have 6 customers accessing the PSQL Server database directly and 4 others going through a terminal server, you will need a concurrent user license for 10 users.

**Cloud Based/No Hypervisor -> Internet/Intranet License for PSQL Server (Section 2.1.a. Server Edition License Grant)**

PSQL Server also offers unlimited concurrent user licenses that allow internal hosting (Intranet) and hosting for third parties (Internet). **If you are hosting an application for access by users outside of your company (SaaS, for example), you need an Internet license.** Or, you need to get Pervasive PSQL Vx Server.

**Cloud Based/Hypervisor/Subscription -> Capacity Licenses – Pervasive PSQL Vx Server (Section 2.1.c. Vx Server Edition License Grant)**

Pervasive PSQL Vx Server was created to support those customers who are heavy users of virtual machines (and hypervisors) and who are using newer software distribution models – namely cloud based and software as a service (Saas).

Cloud computing can make it difficult to count users – connection pooling through terminal services is common as is a stateless front end (browser) for many applications. **Instead of a concurrent use license,** **Pervasive PSQL Vx Server is licensed based on capacity** – the amount of work that the database can perform. Provided capacity limits are not reached, Pervasive PSQL Vx allows an unlimited number of users to access the database. And, the PSQL Vx Server license includes right to use the software in support of SaaS, as a service provider, or make the software available via Internet/Intranet.

**Capacity = Concurrent Sessions + Data in Use**

The cost of a PSQL Vx license is based on the number of concurrent sessions allowed and the total size of open database files (data in use). A session is defined as a client ID used by the transactional engine or a connection to the relational engine interface. Data in use as the total size of all concurrently open
data files. Pervasive PSQL Vx offers both perpetual (pay once and the license doesn’t expire) and time-limited capacity licensing (capacity expires after a specific number of days). Check out the licensing whitepaper with all the details for Pervasive PSQL Vx Server licensing.

**PSQL Server and Workgroup vs. PSQL Vx Server – License Comparison**

To make it easier to remember all of the important details, here’s a table that highlights some of the differences in the license rights by product.

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<th>Workgroup</th>
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**Summary**

After this brief introduction you will no doubt want to take a look at the latest version of the Pervasive PSQL v11 License Agreement. A copy can be found on the Pervasive website, along with translations in French, German and Spanish.