

Pervasive PSQL Licensing for Virtual Servers, Standby Servers, and Clusters – FAQ

License Policy: 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.

Moving vs. Copying Licenses: It is possible, and allowable, to move PSQL server licenses from one machine to another. This means deactivating the license on one server and activating it on another. It does not mean copying the license from one server to another and having two live systems. As long as one license is used on one machine, you are meeting the terms of the License Agreement.

Q1: If I have PSQL installed on a server that is not being used (no client connections, no reads or writes), do I need to have a license?

A1: No. A PSQL installation that has no connections or read or write activity is defined as “inactive” and does not require a license.

Q2: If I have PSQL installed on a backup server and use it only when another system fails, do I need to have a license?

A2: Yes. When a backup system is being used to replace another server, it requires a license.

Q3: I use PSQL installed on three virtual servers on a single physical machine. How many licenses must I have?

A3: Each installation of PSQL, either on a typical OS or on a virtual OS, requires a license. In this case, the customer needs 3 licenses – one for each virtual server.

Q4: PSQL is installed on two machines in a server cluster. The only time PSQL is active on machine 2 is when machine 1 fails and I run machine 2 as a failover. This only happens occasionally. What should I license?

A4: If you want the failover to happen automatically (typically the purpose of having a cluster set up), then it’s best to have a license on both machine 1 and machine 2.

Q5: I have completed the installation of PSQL without inputting a license key. Everything works. Do I need a license?

A5: Pervasive grants and PSQL automatically applies a temporary license to enable database operation even if a license key is not input during or after the installation. The length of that license and number of users allowed vary by version of PSQL you have installed. As soon as the temporary license expires the database will no longer accept connections, generating a status code 161 (the maximum number of user count licenses has been reached). To ensure that your database is available, you need a permanent license.

Q6: I have a backup copy of PSQL – same platform, same user count – sitting ready to go in case of a failure of my primary system. The system is inactive. Am I in violation? Do I need another license?

A6: No. As long as a permanently licensed copy of PSQL is being used only one system at a time, you are not in violation and don't need another license. However, Pervasive recommends that if limiting downtime is a key component of your failover plan, then having a fully licensed copy of PSQL on the failover server is the best plan.