

activAeon Limited

activAeon XA Technical Overview



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activAeon XA Overview

activAeon XA is an automated license reporting solution giving clarity on the real status of Microsoft Windows based application license requirements.

This knowledge, in combination with an accurate picture of products installed across the environment, gives the organization a detailed appraisal of their current situation and that of their end customers.

The reports produced by activAeon XA ensure that licenses are reported in the most cost-effective way.

activAeon XA ensures the organization moves forward with the most efficient license strategy in place.

Features

Central Console with Remote Agent Deployment

Simple, flexible, rapid deployment across a network without disruption to service.

Batch Deployment

The batch deployment mechanism allows deployment of the agent to multiple devices in one go.

Support for DHCP Environments

activAeon XA can be deployed to devices within a DHCP environment (devices with dynamically assigned IP addresses).

Support for Devices with Multiple IP Addresses

activAeon XA can be deployed to devices without having to specify which IP address to use.

Automated Desktop Product Detection & Monitoring

activAeon XA automatically detects all products which are installed on a device, irrespective of vendor. activAeon XA then monitors & reports usage of supported products available to license under the Microsoft SPLA Program.

Secure Channel Communications

All communications between the agents and the AMS can be encrypted, allowing traffic to travel across public networks without the threat of interception.

Deployment through Firewalls

activAeon XA offers a single port deployment mechanism which is configured to suit any environment. This ensures that a network is not open to NETBIOS or RPC port vulnerability.

Configurable Communications

activAeon XA allows an organization to determine and setup a port for agent device communications.

Agent Cache

In the event that the CMS is unable to communicate with an activAeon agent, all data is temporarily held until the CMS is contactable once again, thus ensuring no loss of information.

Active Directory Integration

An Active Directory resolver agent is deployed to a device within a domain to enable activAeon XA to capture full user and device information for that domain.

Non-Active Directory and Workgroup Support

activAeon XA tracks local activity on devices that do not belong to an Active Directory domain, automatically gathering information which would previously have been gathered manually.

Multiple Domain Support

activAeon XA reports for a single domain or across multiple domains to suit the exact configuration of an environment.

SPUR Interpretation

activAeon XA captures the licensing data from an environment and applies the rules contained within the Microsoft Service Provider Use Rights (SPUR) documentation.

Automatic Product Detection

The activAeon XA agent deployed to a remote device will automatically detect an installation of any supported products, both desktop and server products, and determine their license requirements accordingly.

Exchange Integration and Reporting

activAeon XA integrates with Exchange to retrieve user and Exchange plan information, and correlates this information with the various Exchange offerings available on the SPLA program to produce detailed license reports.

Accurate Determination of Windows License Requirements

activAeon XA determines which edition of Windows is installed, and if necessary calculates whether the per-subscriber or per-processor licensing model is most appropriate

Virtualisation and Licensing

activAeon XA has been developed against the virtualisation rights and licensing rules of the Microsoft SPLA program.

Tracking of User Activity

activAeon XA provides granularity of reporting to allow accurate tracking of application usage, for both Microsoft and third party applications. Non-Microsoft applications which are to be monitored must be user specified as part of the configuration process.

Remote Desktop Services Session Activity

activAeon XA provides accurate, detailed session activity within a Remote Desktop Services environment.

Accurate Identification of Remote Desktop Services License Requirements

activAeon XA delivers an accurate user-count for a server providing Remote Desktop Services. Together with the device's underlying operating system, it can determine Remote Desktop Services license requirements.

activAeon XA Reports

The activAeon XA reports are fully dynamic and can be accessed at any time during a reporting period. The reports have multiple output formats, including XML, HTML and Excel.

Completion of a License Report

activAeon XA generates an organization's license report to be submitted to Microsoft or a reseller under the terms of the license agreement.

Customer Associations

activAeon XA associates users and devices with individual end customers to give a true license representation and to enable accurate customer billing.

Individual Customer License Reports

activAeon XA produces separate individual license reports for subsidiaries and customers. This is particularly useful when an end customer's licensing bill exceeds the \$1000 threshold for a month, requiring the customer to be reported separately using a specific customer enrolment number.

activAeon XA Reports

Microsoft SPLA Report

This report provides a summary of all Microsoft license requirements across an environment for the preceding calendar month. The report is compatible with the MOET website, www.explore.ms, for easy submission and includes the relevant Microsoft part codes, order quantities and full SPLA partner account details. The report supports the principle of individual CEN (Customer Enrolment Number) for customers reporting in excess of \$1000 license usage. The Microsoft SPLA report represents the validated declaration of license requirements and forms the basis of the Microsoft invoice.

License Usage Report

This report provides a summary of all Microsoft product license requirements across an environment for the preceding calendar month. The report is an extension of the SPLA report, providing product descriptions as well as the part codes and customer details. The report will append individual customers depending upon reporting requirements to include all customers requiring their own CEN.

Customer License Report

This report provides a detailed breakdown of the licensing requirements for an individual end customer.

Microsoft Exchange License Report

This report provides a breakdown of all users mapped to the various Exchange offerings provided by Microsoft.

Microsoft Windows License Report

This report provides Windows licensing information for the devices within an environment. The report takes into account the base operating system, together with the impact of any installed products and user activity to determine anonymous or authenticated and outsourcing or non-outsourcing license requirements. The report then shows the best value option for processor (PL) and subscriber access (SAL) licensing. Further more the report will highlight the most cost effective license choice for a virtual environment.

Microsoft Server Products License Report

This report provides details of the various license requirements for SPLA server products installed on the devices within an environment.

Microsoft Terminal Server License Report

This report provides Microsoft Remote Desktop Services SAL license requirements.

Microsoft Desktop Application License Report

This report provides Microsoft desktop applications license requirements based on provisioning and usage.

Terminal Server Session Activity Report

This report provides details of all session events attributable to each Remote Desktop Services server within an environment.

Desktop Application Usage Report

This report provides desktop application usage information across the environment.

System Requirements of activAeon XA

Network Configuration

It is recommended that a dedicated device is available to act as the AMS.

The activAeon XA Management Server (AMS)

The AMS must have access to the SQL Server Host. The installation creates an ODBC data source called XAdb to connect to the SQL server. The AMS requires the following software and hardware:

Device Type	Category	Requirement
Server	Operating system	Windows 2003 Server (Standard/Enterprise/DataCenter), Windows 2003 R2 Server (Standard/Enterprise/DataCenter) Windows 2008 Server (Standard/Enterprise/DataCenter) Windows 2008 R2 Server (Standard/Enterprise/DataCenter)
	CPU	Pentium III Processor or higher
	Memory	512 Mb RAM minimum
	Disk space	512 Mb Free Disk Space
	Software	.NET Framework 3.5 minimum

The activAeon XA Agent

The activAeon XA agent requires the following software:

Device Type	Category	Requirement
Server	Operating system	Windows 2003 Server (Standard/Enterprise/DataCenter/Web) Windows 2003 R2 Server (Standard/Enterprise/DataCenter/Web) Windows 2008 Server (Standard/Enterprise/DataCenter/Web) Windows 2008 R2 Server (Standard/Enterprise/DataCenter/Web)

SQL Server Host

The SQL Server host requires the following software:

Device Type	Category	Requirement
Server	Operating system	Windows 2003 Server (Standard/Enterprise/DataCenter) Windows 2003 R2 Server (Standard/Enterprise/DataCenter) Windows 2008 Server (Standard/Enterprise/DataCenter) Windows 2008 R2 Server (Standard/Enterprise/DataCenter)
	Database software	Microsoft SQL Server 2005 (Express/Standard/Enterprise/Workgroup) Microsoft SQL Server 2008 (Express/Standard/Enterprise/Workgroup) Microsoft SQL Server 2008 R2 (Standard/Enterprise/Workgroup/DataCenter)

A regular backup and maintenance routine should be performed to ensure optimum database performance

Note: These are baseline recommendations to ensure optimum application performance where activAeon XA has been installed on a dedicated device. Where activAeon XA is installed on a device alongside other applications, the system requirements may be higher.

Architecture

activAeon XA Management Server (AMS)

The AMS enables administrators to deploy and control activAeon XA agents across their enterprise using the activAeon XA management console. The AMS contains the Central Management Service (CMS); a Windows service that acts as a receiver for licensing data from the activAeon XA agents and as a link to the activAeon XA database.

activAeon XA Database

The activAeon XA database is a Microsoft SQL Server database that stores the system configuration data and all license utilisation information received from the activAeon XA agents.

activAeon XA Managed Server Agent (MSA)

The MSA is a Windows service that is deployed to devices across an enterprise to monitor license utilisation. This license information is passed to the AMS along with device-specific information, such as function, operating system and processor count.

activAeon XA Remote Services Proxy (RSP)

The RSP is a Windows service that is deployed to a device within a domain to interface with Active Directory.

activAeon XA Control Service (ACS)

The ACS is a Windows service that is deployed to devices alongside the RSP and MSA to control communication with the AMS.

activAeon XA SUS Client Service

The SUS Client Service is a Windows service that is deployed to the AMS to communicate with the activAeon XA SUS Server, using http, allowing it to receive activAeon XA software updates.

activAeon XA SUS Agent Service

The SUS Agent Service is a Windows service that is deployed to devices across an enterprise to receive and install activAeon XA software updates from the SUS Client.

activAeon XA Product Database (PDB)

The PDB is a binary encrypted file that is deployed to devices alongside the MSA to carry out a software product inventory check.

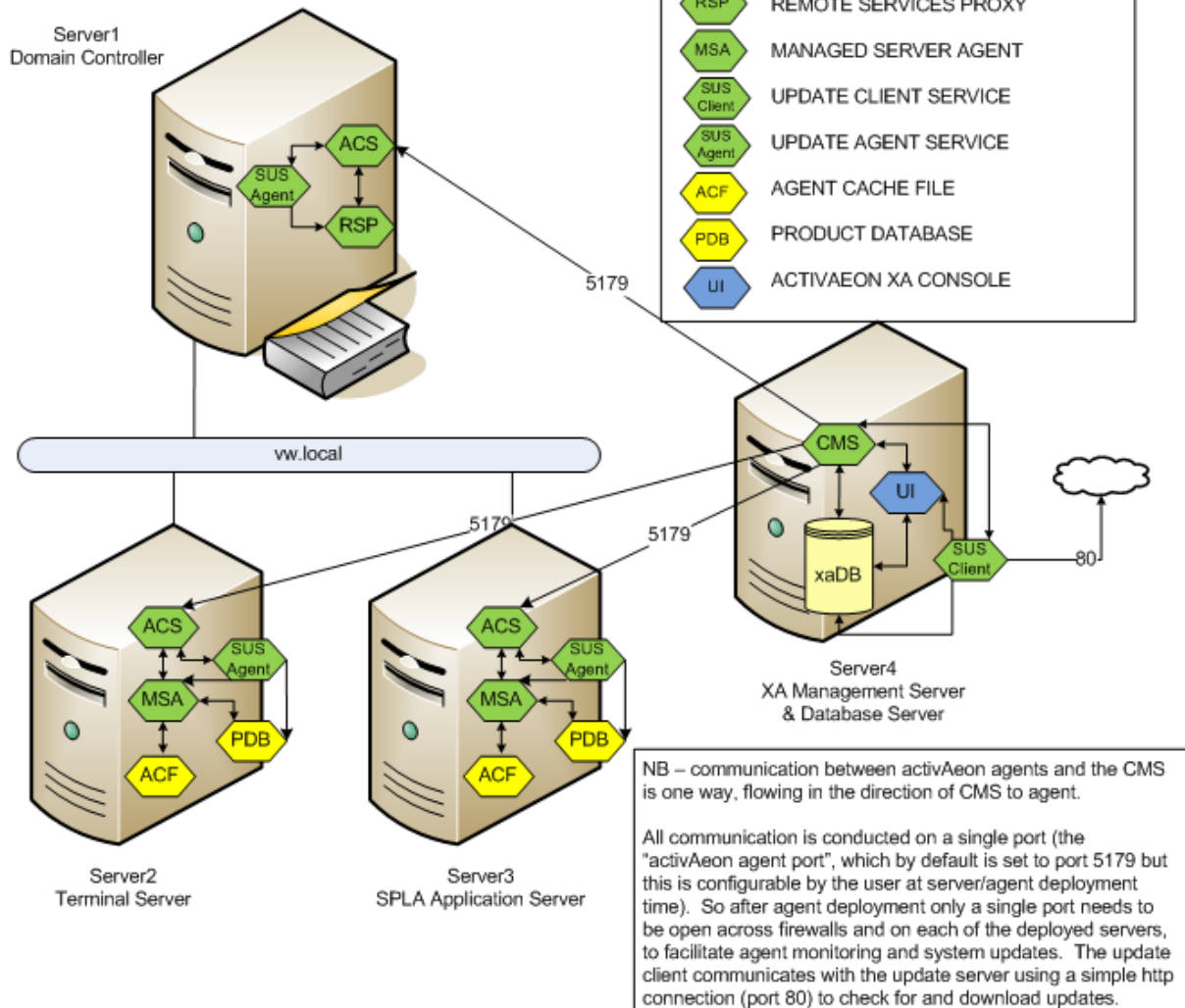
activAeon XA Rules Engine

The activAeon XA rules engine is the core mechanism for retrieving and manipulating license utilisation information within the database to facilitate accurate reporting in accordance with the Microsoft Service Provider Use Rights (SPUR).

activAeon XA Management Console

The activAeon XA management console allows administrators to manage and control the operation of activAeon XA. It is primarily used to deploy, configure and manage activAeon XA agents and to access the reporting functionality of activAeon XA.

Overview of activAeon Services & Product Architecture



Supported SPLA Products

Product	SAL	PL
Application Center 2000		X
BizTalk 2002, 2004, 2006, 2009, 2010 – Branch, Standard & Enterprise		X
Commerce Server 2002, 2007, 2009 - Standard & Enterprise		X
Content Management Server 2002 - Enterprise		X
CRM 3.0, 4.0 Server - Professional	X	
Exchange 2000, 2003, 2007, 2010	X	
HMC 3.5, 4.0, 4.5	X	
Host Integration Server 2004 - Standard & Enterprise		X
Identity Integration Server 2003 - Enterprise		X
ISA Server 2004 & 2006 – Standard & Enterprise		X
MOM 2005 – Standard & Enterprise	X	
Office Standard & Professional Plus	X	
Office Project Standard & Professional	X	
Office SharePoint Designer	X	
Office SharePoint Portal Server 2003, 2007, 2010 – Standard & Enterprise	X	
Office Visio Standard, Professional & Premium	X	
Provisioning System		X
Speech Server 2004		X
SQL Server 2005, 2008, 2008 R2 - Standard, Enterprise, Datacenter, Workgroup & Web		X
System Center Operations Manager 2007 R2	X	
System Center Service Manager 2010	X	
Windows Server Standard	X	X
Windows Server Enterprise	X	X
Windows Server Datacenter		X
Windows Server Web		X
Windows Small Business Server 2008 – Standard & Premium	X	
Windows Small Business Server 2011 – Essentials, Standard & Premium Add-On	X	
Windows Remote Desktop Services	X	