

KMS Activation Characteristics and FAQ

What is KMS?

KMS (Key Management System) allows client computers to automatically activate Microsoft products without user intervention. Current products on the Software Center that allow KMS activation are Windows 10 Enterprise, Office 2016 Professional Plus and Office 2019 Professional Plus. Older versions of Windows and Office previously available from the Software Center also use KMS activation as outlined below.

Why KMS?

KMS license activation will provide a much easier and efficient customer experience when installing Microsoft products from the Software Center.

How does the client computer find the KMS server?

By default, KMS clients automatically attempt to discover the KMS server on campus. Successful activation will occur if the client computers are connected to the campus network.

Can a client computer be off campus?

All client computers must be connected to 129.22.*.* to reach the KMS server via a faceplate or CaseWireless. Off campus computers can run the VPN client to achieve KMS activation.

When does the client computer perform KMS activation?

The client computer attempts to contact the KMS server at regular two hour intervals during the 30 day activation grace period. You **DO NOT** need to keep Office products open for any length of time, simply using the products as you normally would to achieve KMS activation.

Can the client computer be activated immediately?

Although it is recommended that the client computer automatically activates through the KMS server, the client can be forced to activate immediately by following the procedure for your product outlined in the "How to Force KMS Activation" section at the bottom of this document.

Does the client computer need to be constantly connected to the CWRU network?

No, once activated the client can operate independently of the campus network for up to 180 days. Clients must renew their activation by connecting to the KMS host at least once every 180 days to stay activated. Once activated, the client computers attempt to renew their activation every seven days (by default). After each successful connection, the expiration is extended out to the full 180 days.

What happens if Windows cannot reactivate the license?

If a Windows computer has not been able to reestablish communication to the KMS server after 180 days, the machine will become unlicensed. It starts a 30-day grace period and notifies the user of this change. If the machine is not activated against the KMS server after the 30-day grace period expires, it will enter a reduced functionality mode (RFM) until it is able to connect to its KMS server.

What is RFM and how does a machine recover from it?

RFM is reduced functionality mode. A computer enters RFM if it fails to activate within the 30-day grace period or if it fails to reactivate within 30 days after the 180 days KMS activation expires. In RFM, the user is provided multiple options for activation after logon. If the computer is not reactivated within one hour, the user is forcibly logged off.

In Office 2010, 2013, 2016 and 2019, is the 30 grace period and the 180 day KMS reactivation period the same?

Yes.

How does Office 2010, 2013, 2016 or 2019 react in RFM mode?

In reduced-functionality mode, programs function similarly to a viewer. When running in reduced functionality mode, many menu items are unavailable (dimmed), thereby blocking access to that functionality. Some of the limitations of reduced-functionality mode include the following limitations:

- You cannot create any new documents.
- You can view existing documents but you cannot edit them.
- You can print documents but you cannot save them.

No existing Office files or documents are damaged, and you can easily get Office out of this mode by following the instructions outlined in the screens presented.

If a student graduates from the University, can he or she continue to use Windows 7 Enterprise, Windows 8 Enterprise, Windows 8.1 Enterprise, Windows 10 Enterprise, Office 2010, Office 2013, Office 2016 or Office 2019 Professional Plus obtained off the Microsoft Campus Agreement?

Yes, the student's software can be converted to a perpetual license by entering a MAK key. All graduating students who have installed one of the Microsoft products during their enrollment at Case, after July 1, 2011, will receive a license key and instructions from the Software Center to convert their licenses to perpetual. These license keys will arrive via email along with the Microsoft confirmation notice that states they are legal owners of a perpetual license for the product(s).

What if I am a student who is no longer enrolled at Case and did not officially graduate but obtained a license for Windows 7 Enterprise, Windows 8 Enterprise, Windows 8.1 Enterprise, Office 2010, Office 2013, Office 2016. or Office 2019 Professional Plus after July 1, 2011?

The software licenses will enter into RFM mode and stop working within 180 days.

What if I am a faculty/staff member who is no longer employed at Case but obtained a "work at home" license for Office 2010, Office 2013, Office 2016, or Office 2019 Professional Plus after July 1, 2011?

The software licenses will enter into RFM mode and stop working within 180 days.

What if I am a faculty, staff, or student and downloaded Microsoft Office 2010 Professional Plus prior to July 1, 2011?

Those who downloaded and install Microsoft Office 2010 Professional prior to July 1, 2011 do not need to take any action. Office 2010 was delivered with MAK activation keys, which provided perpetual licenses for the software.

I am a faculty or staff member who previously installed a Microsoft Office 2010 Professional Plus Work-At-Home license prior to July 1, 2011, will KMS activation impact me?

No, prior to July 1, 2011, Microsoft Office 2010 Professional Plus Work-At-Home license requests received a MAK activation key which made them perpetual in nature.

Does KMS activation apply for Office 2011, Office 2016, or Office 2019 Standard for Mac?

No.

How To Force KMS Activation

For Office 2010 Professional Plus

1. From an elevated command prompt (Run As Administrator) cd to the Office14 directory. Most times this path is either "C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft Office\Office14" or "C:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\Office14".
2. Type:

```
cscript ospp.vbs /inpkey:VYBBJ-TRJPB-QFQRF-QFT4D H3GVB
```

The above command reinitializes the client as a KMS client

3. Then type:

```
cscript ospp.vbs /sethst:sc-kms.cwru.edu
```

The above command points the client to the correct server

4. Then type:

```
cscript ospp.vbs /act
```

The above command activates the client

For Office 2013 Professional Plus

1. From an elevated command prompt (Run As Administrator) cd to the Office15 directory. Most times this path is either "C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft Office\Office15" or "C:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\Office15".

2. Type:

```
cscript ospp.vbs /inpkey: YC7DK-G2NP3-2QQC3-J6H88-GVGXT
```

The above command reinitializes the client as a KMS client.

3. Then type:

```
cscript ospp.vbs /sethst:sc-kms.cwru.edu
```

The above command points the client to the correct server

4. Then type:

```
cscript ospp.vbs /act
```

The above command activates the client

For Office 2016 Professional Plus

5. From an elevated command prompt (Run As Administrator) cd to the Office16 directory. Most times this path is either "C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft Office\Office16" or "C:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\Office16".

6. Type:

```
cscript ospp.vbs /inpkey: V7PC2-8RQPK-QMH36-63V96-C4FXB The
```

above command reinitializes the client as a KMS client.

7. Then type:

```
cscript ospp.vbs /sethst:sc-kms.cwru.edu
```

The above command points the client to the correct server

8. Then type:

```
cscript ospp.vbs /act
```

The above command activates the client

For Windows 7 Enterprise

1. From an elevated command prompt (Run As Administrator) cd to the System32 directory. Most times this path is "C:\Windows\System32".

2. Type:

```
cscript slmgr.vbs /ipk 33PXH-7Y6KF-2VJC9-XBBR8-HVTHH The
```

above command reinitializes the client as a KMS client

3. Then type:

```
cscript slmgr.vbs -skms sc-kms.cwru.edu
```

The above command points the client to the correct server

4. Then type:

```
cscript slmgr.vbs /ato
```

The above command activates the client

For Windows 8 Enterprise

1. From an elevated command prompt (Run As Administrator) cd to the System32 directory. Most times this path is "C:\Windows\System32".

2. Type:

```
cscript slmgr.vbs /ipk 32JNW-9KQ84-P47T8-D8GGY-CWCK7
```

The above command reinitializes the client as a KMS client

3. Then type:

```
cscript slmgr.vbs -skms sc-kms.cwru.edu
```

The above command points the client to the correct server

4. Then type:

```
cscript slmgr.vbs /ato
```

The above command activates the client

For Windows 8.1 Enterprise

1. From an elevated command prompt (Run As Administrator) cd to the System32 directory. Most times this path is "C:\Windows\System32".

2. Type:

```
cscript slmgr.vbs /ipk MHF9N-XY6XB-WVXMC-BTDCT-MKKG7
```

The above command reinitializes the client as a KMS client

3. Then type:

```
cscript slmgr.vbs -skms sc-kms.cwru.edu
```

The above command points the client to the correct server

4. Then type:

```
cscript slmgr.vbs /ato
```

The above command activates the client

For Windows 10 Enterprise

5. From an elevated command prompt (Run As Administrator) cd to the System32 directory. Most times this path is "C:\Windows\System32".

6. Type:

```
cscript slmgr.vbs /ipk NPPR9-FWDCX-D2C8J-H872K-2YT43
```

The above command reinitializes the client as a KMS client

7. Then type:

```
cscript slmgr.vbs -skms sc-kms.cwru.edu
```

The above command points the client to the correct server

8. Then type:

```
cscript slmgr.vbs /ato
```

The above command activates the client

Rev: December 2018