# Licensing Terminology

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| Term | Definition |
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| Default license | A license bundled with the software that is installed automatically when you install the software. |
| Evaluation license | A temporary license. Evaluation licenses are valid for a specified number of days and are tied to a host ID (device serial number). |
| Host ID | A unique chassis serial number that is specific to each device. |
| Incremental license | A license for additional VMs that were not included in the initial license file. License keys are incremental—if you purchase some VMs now and others later, the license file and the software detect the sum of all VMs for the specified device. |
| License enforcement | A mechanism that prevents a feature from being used without first obtaining a license. |
| License key file | A file that specifies the total licensed VMs sockets for your system. Each file is uniquely named and is specific to a VSM. The file contains digital signatures to prevent tampering and modification. License keys are required to use the product and are enforced within a specified time span. |
| Licensed application | A software application or component that requires a license to be used. |
| Licensed feature | Permission to use a particular feature through a license file, a hardware object, or a legal contract. This permission is limited to the number of users, number of instances, time span, and the implemented device. |

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| Missing license | If the bootflash has been corrupted or a supervisor module replaced after you have installed a license, that license shows as "missing." The product still works. You should reinstall the license as soon as possible. |
| Node locked license | A license that can only be used on a particular device using the unique host ID for the device. |
| Overdraft license | Overdraft licenses are used when the installed licenses are used up. Overdraft licenses can prevent a service disruption in the event you exceed the number of permanent or evaluation licenses specified in your license file.<br><br>The number of overdraft licenses provided is based on the number of licenses ordered. |
| Permanent license | A license that is not time bound is called a permanent license. |
| Product Authorization Key (PAK) | A unique code, provided in the software license claim certificate, that allows you to obtain a license key. You use this key at a website to register for your license. After you register, your license key file and installation instructions are sent to you in e mail. |
| Rehosting | The process of changing a license to reflect a different device serial number, or host ID. A host ID is unique to each device, for example VSM. |
| Software license claim certificate | A document entitling its rightful owner to use licensed features on one device as described in that document. This document provides the product authorization key (PAK). |
| Support | If you purchased Cisco support through a Cisco reseller, contact the reseller directly. If you purchased support directly from Cisco, contact Cisco Technical Support. |
| Stacking | The process of adding multiple license files on a single VSM. |