



Microsoft Licensing Status

Part I

IT Users Meeting

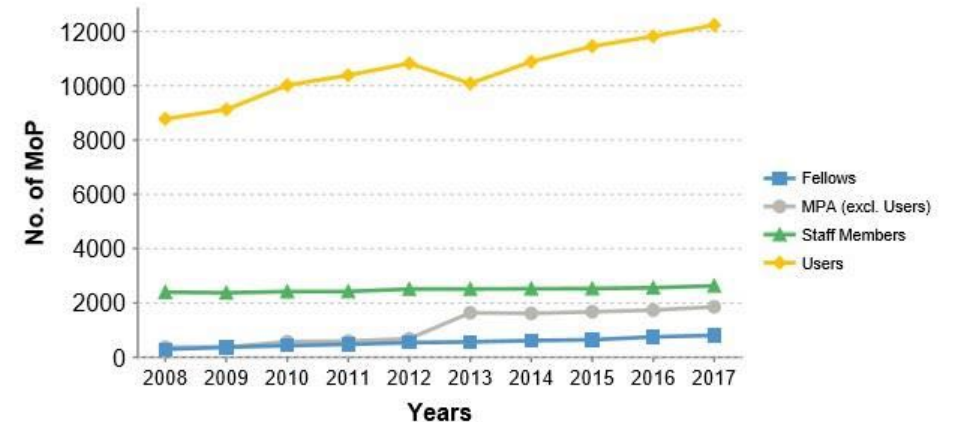
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28 May 2018

The Problem:

- Microsoft revoked our academic/education status in 2017
 - We do not fit in any of the special categories
 - Government, Education, Health, Non-profit
- Consequence: > 10 fold increase in price
- Licensing is based on # users
 - CERN publishes its personnel statistics
 - A user == an email address
 - 40000 accounts & mailboxes
- The current offering is based on a bundle
 - Exiting this bundle likely to double the prices
- The current contract terminates 28.2.2019



The Problem (cont.):

- Other similar organisations (FNAL, DESY, Eurofusion, ESO, etc...) have similar problems
 - Although not (yet) for everybody and some benefit from the special categories
- The big financial impact is due to the server side technologies currently used (e.g. Mail, Authentication, etc...)
- Over years, we have granted access to all Microsoft products, regardless of the needs
 - E.g. 500 Visual Studio installations, 1500 Visio or Project...

The Strategy

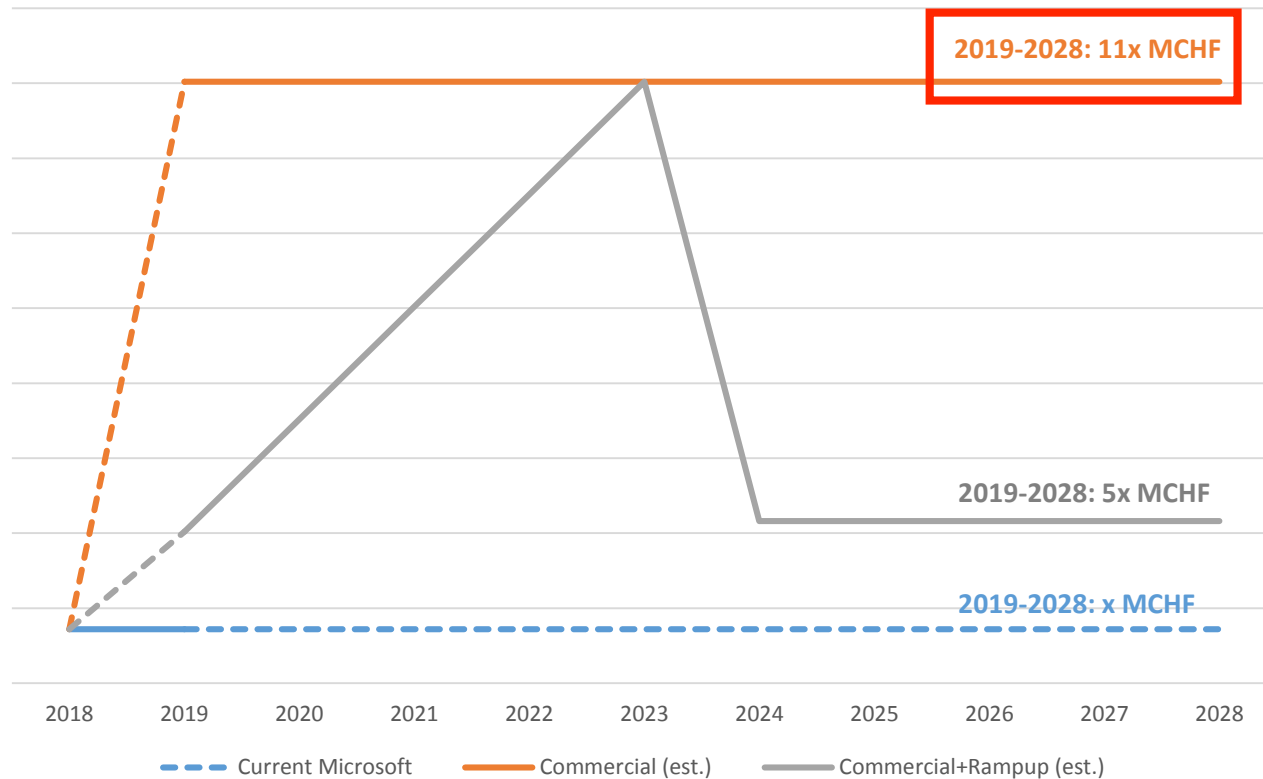
- We must remove CERN's dependency on commercial companies
 - CERN playing a pioneering role among public research institutions
 - Migrate from commercial software to open-source solutions
 - Not only Microsoft...
- In the meantime negotiations with Microsoft continue
 - At highest level, just below the CEO
 - A ramp up grace period has already been *promised*
 - May require restricting products and/or different usage

Over the past years, by virtue of its status as an “academic institution”, CERN has enjoyed special conditions for the use of Microsoft products. Recently, the company has decided to revoke CERN's academic status, a measure that will take effect at the end of the present contract in March 2019. A new contract would be based on user numbers and would increase the license costs by more than a factor of ten. Although CERN has received indications that a ramp-up profile over five years might be possible, such costs are considered to be unaffordable in the long term. The Management is therefore tackling this problem with a two-pronged approach: on the one hand, it continues to negotiate with Microsoft to obtain more favourable conditions; on the other hand, it has begun migrating from commercial software products (Microsoft and others) to open-source solutions, so as to mitigate and ultimately remove altogether CERN's dependency on commercial companies (CERN is playing a pioneering role in this respect among public research institutions). For these reasons, no additional budget to cover the possible increased cost of Microsoft licenses as of 2019 has been included in this MTP.

MTP White Paper – 7 May 2018
Scientific Policy Committee

Costs Estimates

Microsoft Licences Costs Estimates / Year



Notes:

- Numbers based on a “bundle”
Unbundling is likely to cost fortunes (e.g. double)
- No firm prices – indications from informal meetings with Microsoft in June & December 2017
- Est. M365 (aka. *bundle*): 350 CHF/User/Year
- The ramp down scenario requires more (human) resources

Impact & Timelines

- IT's priority is to address the Microsoft problem
 - IT provided manpower for this
 - Expect however a decrease of 3rd level support
 - E.g. VIP support, change requests replaced by alternatives proposals
 - Self-help through community forums may be provided
- In the mean time, no actions are required from you
 - Until we propose alternatives and a detailed plan
 - E.g. you can continue to use SharePoint, Skype for business, Office, etc...
- Specific needs:
 - It will always be possible to use Microsoft products in the future
- Microsoft negotiations may force us to move to other implementations
 - E.g. Cloud based...
- 2H2018 – Microsoft negotiations terminate
 - Obligation: we have to go to the December Finance Committee latest
 - Will determine the boundary conditions
 - E.g. Faster migration to an email alternative
- 2018
 - Proof of concepts of alternatives
- 2019
 - Pilots
- Regular updates at the ITUM
- <http://cern.ch/malt>

Summary

- **We must remove CERN's dependency on commercial companies**
 - G-Suite is therefore not an option
 - We are studying the alternatives...
 - ... while still negotiating with Microsoft
- **No actions are required from you**
 - Until alternatives are proposed
- **Surveys might be conducted**
 - To understand the use cases
- **It will always be possible to use Microsoft products in the future**

<http://cern.ch/malt>

Questions?

