Restoring the iDRAC7 License after System Board Replacement

This Dell technical paper outlines the different ways that you can restore the iDRAC7 license after a system board replacement.

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Introduction

The new Dell™ PowerEdge™ 12th generation servers offer digital licensing through the onboard iDRAC7 with Lifecycle Controller 2. When a system board is replaced, the license needs to be restored on the new system board. Dell Systems Management Solutions offers multiple methods to restore the license.

This paper provides the details on:

1. Installing a license using iDRAC Interfaces.
2. Restoring a license using the Backup and Restore feature.
3. Installing a 30-day evaluation license using the Local License Installation Tool.

Licensing on 12th generation servers

The new Dell PowerEdge 12th generation servers offer digital licensing through the onboard iDRAC7 with Lifecycle Controller 2. A factory-installed license is installed on the server or the customer site with one of the iDRAC interfaces. iDRAC7 features are available based on the license installed on the server. When the system board is replaced, the license must be restored and reinstalled on the new system board.

Restoring a license using iDRAC7

The following sections describe the option for restoring a license using iDRAC7 and the steps for this option before and after system board replacement.

Before system board replacement

Before you replace the system board, the license needs to be exported using one of the following iDRAC interfaces.

- iDRAC web interface: Go to the Licenses tab and select Export from the drop-down menu under License Options to export all licenses, as shown in Figure 1.
- WSMAN and RACADM Interfaces: For more information on License Management, see the iDRAC Licensing technical paper.
After system board replacement

After the system board is replaced, import the license exported using one of the iDRAC interfaces. If you do not have the license exported, Dell also stores a copy of the licenses and makes them available to you in an online License Management portal (www.dell.com/support/retail/lkm).

- iDRAC web interface: Go to the Licenses tab and select Import from the drop-down menu under License Options to import the license, as shown in Figure 2.
- WSMAN and RACADM Interfaces: More details on License Management can be found in see the iDRAC Licensing technical paper.

Figure 1. iDRAC console – Licensing export

Figure 2. iDRAC console – Licensing import
Restoring a license using the Backup and Restore features

The following sections describe the option for restoring a license using the Backup and Restore features and the steps for this option before and after system board replacement.

Before system board replacement

The Backup feature allows you to create a copy of the server profile that consists of the component configuration and firmware, including licenses. Before replacing a system board, follow these steps to back up the server profile. Backup is an iDRAC7 Licensed Feature. Make sure you have a valid Enterprise License installed.

- Back up using the iDRAC web interface: Use this feature to create a single image file that can be saved to vFlash SD card or a network share (CIFS or NFS), as shown in Figure 3.
- The Restore feature is also available with LifeCycle Controller. For more information, see the Lifecycle Controller Backup and Restore in Dell PowerEdge 12th Generation Servers technical paper.

After system board replacement

After the system board is replaced, the server profile and license can be restored using the Restore feature.

Restore using the iDRAC web interface: Go to the Backup and Restore tab and select the Restore option to restore the configuration and firmware and licenses using the backup image file, as shown in Figure 4.
Restoring the iDRAC7 License after System Board Replacement

Figure 4. Backup and Restore Server Profile – Restore

Restoring a license using the License Installation Tool

The following steps describe the option for restoring a license using the License Installation Tool and the steps for this option before and after system board replacement.

If you have not backed up the server profile or exported your license before replacing your system board, the License Installation Tool provides a mechanism to install a 30-day evaluation license. Follow these steps.

1. Download the image from the support site: DELL Local iDRAC7 License Installation Tool.
2. Create the bootable USB key or CD from the ISO.
3. Boot to the USB or CD.
4. The following prompt is displayed:
   
   Do you want to install an enterprise evaluation license that is valid for 30 days?

5. Respond with Y to import the license.

When the evaluation license expires after 30 days, you must install a perpetual license.

Conclusion

Dell customers are encouraged to export the licenses, so that in the event of system board replacement, the license can be imported easily. The License Installation Tool provides a 30-day evaluation license to avoid downtime due to a lost license.