



## **Guide to Multisite Deployment License Usage**

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**IPfonix, Inc.  
7912 Fairview Road  
Boulder  
CO 80303  
USA**

**Tel: +1 303 494 0394  
Fax: +1 781 240 0527**

**[info@ipfonix.com](mailto:info@ipfonix.com)**

**<http://www.ipfonix.com>**

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# 1 Intended Audience

This document is designed to help MSO customers understand how the Multisite Deployment License works.

## 2 Purpose of the Multisite Deployment License

The Multisite Deployment License is available only to operator customers, and is intended to support their needs when they expect substantial but unpredictable growth in the customer base over a fairly short period of time.

The normal IPfonix, Inc. deployment licenses are issued for a particular number of subscribers. Operators can increase the number of subscribers at any time on payment of a fee, as described as <http://www.ipfonix.com/prices.html>. Additionally, each deployment license is usually restricted so that it operates only on a maximum of two IP addresses (an “active” address and a “passive” address, allowing KDC failover without loss of service to customers).

A Multisite Deployment License allows a large number of KDCs to operate under a single license, so that the operator installs the same license on to each KDC server. In addition, although the Multisite Deployment License is limited to a particular number of subscribers, that number is usually set so high that it will not be exceeded on any particular server.

This means that as a network experiences sudden growth, the operator does not have to repeatedly obtain new licenses. Instead, the Multisite Deployment License usually contains a time limit, and IPfonix, Inc. issues new licenses at no cost well in advance of license expiration, so that the operator can offer uninterrupted service.

## 3 How Does the License Work?

Like all IPfonix, Inc. licenses, the Multisite Deployment License is read and verified by the KDC during KDC start-up. If the license contains an expiration date, the KDC makes a note of that fact and, if the KDC is running at the time of expiration, it will cease to operate at that time.

The Multisite Deployment License contains a list of the IP addresses on which the license may operate. During KDC start-up, this list is checked, and if none of the IP addresses in the list matches an IP address owned by the host on which the KDC is being started, the KDC will issue an error message and halt.

Assuming that all is well (*i.e.*, the host owns one of the IP addresses in the license and the license has not expired), the KDC will continue to start up as usual.

During operation, a KDC operating with a Multisite Deployment license will create some additional log files in the `.../log` directory. The name of these files will be of the form:

usage\_report\_<year>\_<month>.log. These files are periodically e-mailed (or sent by some other mutually agreeable mechanism) to IPfonix, Inc.<sup>1</sup>.

The files contain information that is cryptographically secured (but is in plaintext, so that the operator may see what information is being transferred). The information contained in the files is:

- the number of tickets served by an individual KDC to individual clients on an hourly basis.
- The total number of different clients detected by the individual KDC in that month (updated hourly).

By collating these files from all an operator's KDCs, IPfonix, Inc. can ensure that the operator is not supporting a larger number of clients than the operator currently is paying for. Likewise, the operator can ensure that he is not paying to support more subscribers on his system than he needs. In particular, use of the Multisite Deployment license allows an operator to consolidate the number of licenses subscribers into a single system-wide number, rather than maintaining a per-KDC safety margin in the number of subscribers supported by each KDC.

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<sup>1</sup>This implies that in the case that a Multisite Deployment License is used, there is always a secondary contractual agreement between IPfonix, Inc. and the operator that describes the exact procedure to be used to transfer this information to IPfonix, Inc. Typically, the files are e-mail monthly.