AUDIOCODES APPLICATION NOTE
AudioCodes Floating SBC License

Overview

The AudioCodes floating license for session border controllers (SBC) is a network-wide license that is not bound to a specific SBC or gateway. The floating license is intended for enterprises who wish to dynamically share a pool of SBC resources among multiple SBCs. It simplifies network capacity planning and may provide cost benefits related to traffic and usage statistics, site redundancy and follow-the-sun scenarios.

In a floating license deployment, participating SBCs are connected to AudioCodes' One Voice Operations Center (OVOC) server, which functions as a pool license manager.

To use the floating license, you order a bulk number of licenses that can be shared across the entire SBC network. The SBCs report their usage statistics to AudioCodes and the aggregated capacity is calculated monthly.

Under the floating license policy, you are only billed for additional floating licenses should the aggregated monthly capacity exceed your license pool size.

You define your floating license type based on the number of SBC sessions and/or SBC registrations. If required, you can also define a specific number of transcoding sessions within the SBC sessions.

How does it work?

The following diagram illustrates how floating license reporting works:
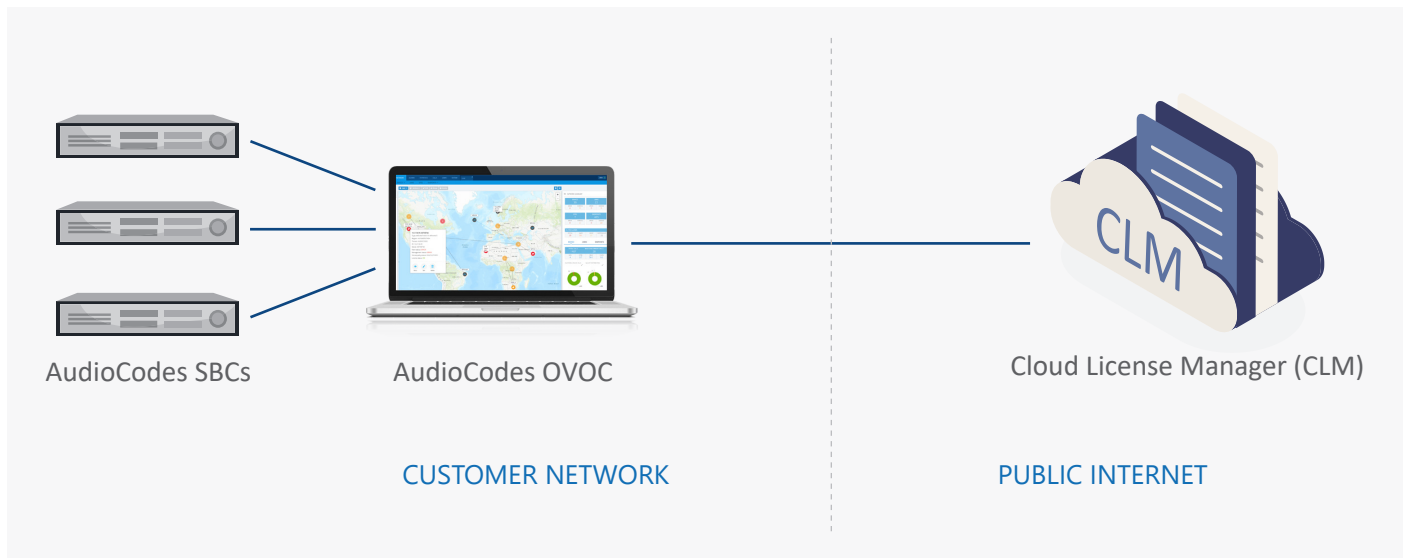
To set up the floating license, the OVOC administrator defines which SBCs will consume floating license resources. These SBCs, once connected to OVOC under a floating license, are permitted to use any capacity up to their device limits. If desired, the maximum capacity drawn from the floating license by a single SBC can be limited through an SBC configuration parameter. The SBCs report their capacity consumption to OVOC at fixed intervals, usually every five minutes. OVOC sends the Cloud License Manager (CLM) an anonymized daily report of the customer's usage consumption statistics. These reports are sent from the OVOC server to the CLM via a secured REST API over HTTPS (see Privacy, below). This means that, in most cases, no special firewall configuration is needed and no VPN is required.

What happens if a disconnect occurs in the network?

If an SBC disconnects from OVOC, or vice versa, there is a grace period of 90 days during which the SBCs continue to function as usual. During this period, alerts are generated by both the SBC and OVOC to alert the customer to this connectivity issue.

How is access capacity measured and customer billed?

AudioCodes analyzes the resource consumption reports at the end of each month to check if your usage has exceeded your licensed capacity. If the licensed capacity has been exceeded, AudioCodes sends you a report detailing the excess capacity and a request to purchase additional floating licenses.

The capacity measured is the concurrent, aggregated capacity of all SBCs (also known as floating capacity). For example, the concurrent aggregated capacity of a customer with 10 SBCs, each running 250 sessions at a given moment, is counted as 2,500 sessions (10 multiplied by 250).

Privacy

The information that is sent out from OVOC to the CLM contains only aggregated quantities of calls, registrations and transcoded sessions as measured by the SBCs. No personal information, such as names, telephone numbers and call duration, is sent to the CLM.

The information is delivered to the CLM using a secure REST API over HTTPS. Once received by the CLM, the information is password protected and stored on Amazon's Relational Database Service (RDS).

Prerequisites

- To be eligible to use the floating license, you need to sign the AudioCodes Floating License Agreement.
- OVOC version 7.4.3082 and up
- SBC version 7.20A.202.112 and up

About AudioCodes

AudioCodes (NASDAQ, TASE: AUDC) is a leading provider of advanced communications software, products and productivity solutions for the digital workplace. AudioCodes enables enterprises and service providers to build and operate all-IP voice networks for delivering unified communications, contact centers, and hosted business services, whether in the cloud or on premises. Our innovative products, solutions and services are used by large multinational enterprises and leading tier one operators worldwide. Our underlying high-definition voice technology and products provide enhanced quality and an improved end user communication experience.