GETTING TO KNOW

Zendesk Business Associate Agreements
Be the company your customers want you to be.

And, we like to lead by example with being completely transparent. Sometimes companies are asked to redline agreements without knowing what their company is purchasing or, in this case, how Zendesk Enterprise Cloud Services work. The goal of this FAQ is to help make your review of Zendesk's Business Associate Agreement (BAA) both clear and simple.

1. General Questions
2. Appendix A: The Zendesk environment
General Questions

1. What is my company purchasing?
Zendesk offers tools for better customer service, including a family of products to connect with customers on any channel. To learn more, visit: zendesk.com/support. We provide Software-as-a-Service (SaaS), meaning that your company is subscribing to the services Zendesk offers.

This model differs from purchasing an on-premise enterprise software application, and allows for easier integration and scalability.

2. What does the Zendesk environment encompass?
With Zendesk, you have the option of purchasing and opting into a range of services, including our core services, add-on features, Marketplace Apps, and third-party services/integrations. For more information, see Appendix A: The Zendesk environment.

3. Does Zendesk permit the storage of protected health information ("PHI") in its Service?
Yes. If your organization is a “covered entity” or “business associate” under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (“HIPAA”), your organization may execute Zendesk’s Business Associate Agreement (“Zendesk BAA”). Your organization will need to have a HIPAA-Enabled Account with Zendesk for the Zendesk BAA to be valid. To achieve a HIPAA-Enabled Account, your organization will need to (1) purchase the Advanced Security Deployed Associated Service or Advanced Compliance Deployed Associated Service (each an “Add-On”); and (2) enable a set of security configurations as outlined by Zendesk. A Zendesk account executive can provide additional information, if requested.

4. Which Zendesk Services can be HIPAA-Enabled?
The following Services, whether purchased individually or whether purchased as part of Zendesk Suite, are covered by this BAA when purchased with the Zendesk Enterprise Support Subscription Plan and either (i) the Advanced Security Deployed Associated Service, or (ii) the Advanced Compliance Deployed Associated Service:

- Zendesk Guide Lite, Professional, or Enterprise
- Zendesk Gather Legacy or Professional
- Zendesk Enterprise Chat
- Zendesk Explore Lite or Professional

The following Service, whether purchased individually or whether purchased as part of Zendesk Suite, is covered by this BAA when purchased with Zendesk Talk Enterprise, Professional or Legacy Advanced Service Plans:

- Zendesk Talk (excluding Zendesk Text)

The BAA does not apply to any other Zendesk products or third party services (including integrations or applications) to which a customer’s account may be connected.
General Questions

5. Why do we need to purchase an Advanced Security Add-On to store PHI in Zendesk’s Services?
Zendesk takes its investment in compliance very seriously. In order to help our customers fulfill their HIPAA obligations, we provide organizations that are covered entities or business associates with appropriate configuration options to help safeguard PHI from misuse and wrongful disclosure. When we agree to a BAA, we gate your setup and your account in a dedicated environment and we take responsibility for all our vendors downstream. This is no small feat and the added cost reflects the effort and investment involved. If you plan to exchange and store PHI in your customer service solution and care about protecting the privacy of your customers—rather than just checking a “HIPAA compliance” box—Zendesk provides a robust and thoughtful solution.

6. What are the security configurations that have to be enabled?
Zendesk requires you to implement a set of security configurations designed to help you safeguard PHI, including, but not limited to, IP restrictions, tightening Support instance access controls, attachment control configurations, and endpoint (i.e., laptop, desktop) security controls. Please speak with your account executive for additional information, including to request the list of specific security configurations.

7. Does Zendesk monitor PHI or segregate PHI from non-PHI in its Service?
No, Zendesk treats all Service Data (which we define as all data and information stored in or transmitted via our Service) the same way. We do not monitor Service Data for specific content, including PHI. As a result, Zendesk does not segregate PHI for special treatment nor does Zendesk maintain the ‘Designated Record Set’.

8. Does Zendesk share PHI with any third parties?
Zendesk does not share Service Data that has not been aggregated, encoded or anonymized with third parties, except those who are sub-processors (e.g., Amazon Web Services, Inc., Google Inc., etc.). Any sub-processors utilized by Zendesk have certain obligations via BAA’s entered into with Zendesk. See our Sub-processors Policy for more information.

9. We have our own Business Associate Agreement, can we use that?
No. Zendesk requires customers to adhere to its BAA as it is specifically tailored to address HIPAA privacy and security issues that arise with respect to our Services. Zendesk operates a multi-tenant customer data environment; and, therefore is unable to customize our operational, compliance and security processes on an individual customer basis.
The Zendesk environment

Core Services, with solutions for self-service and omnichannel approach

support
A beautifully simple system for tracking, prioritizing, and solving customer support tickets

guide
A self-service destination featuring knowledge base articles, community forums, and a customer portal

chat
Live chat and messaging software that provides a fast and responsive way to connect with customers in the moment

talk
Call center software that allows for more personal and productive phone support conversations

explore
Analytics to help measure and understand the entire customer experience

connect
Manage proactive customer communication across channels to deliver better customer experiences at scale

Add-on features and functionality

• Advanced Security Deployed Associated Service
• Priority Customer Support Deployed Associated Service
• Data Center Location Deployed Associated Service
• Light Agents Deployed Associated Service

Platform

• Apps Marketplace: zendesk.com/apps
• Embeddables: zendesk.com/embeddables
• Third-Party services and integrations