



IBM Licenses and Protects Its SPSS Statistics Software **with** **Thales Sentinel** Since 1996

educ	jobcat	salary	salbegin	jobtime
15	3	\$57,000	\$27,000	
16	1	\$40,200	\$18,750	
12	1	\$21,450	\$12,000	
8	1	\$21,900	\$13,200	
15	1	\$45,000	\$21,000	
	1	\$32,000		

IBM SPSS is one of the most widely used statistical analysis platforms in the world, trusted by universities, governments, researchers, and enterprises for more than five decades. To protect its software, manage licensing, and support flexible commercial models, IBM SPSS has used Thales Sentinel since 1996. Their longstanding partnership enables IBM to securely distribute the software across a worldwide customer base while supporting multiple packaging options, pricing models, and deployment environments including offline for highly restricted “dark sites” such as banks and government agencies.

About IBM SPSS

IBM needs no introduction. Often referred to as “Big Blue,” this global technology company headquartered in Armonk, New York, operates in more than 175 countries and employs over a quarter of a million people. IBM’s core business today centers on hybrid cloud, artificial intelligence, enterprise software, and consulting services. The company reported approximately \$67.5 billion in revenue in 2025, a significant portion of which is software and consulting.

IBM SPSS, part of IBM’s Software Group Business Analytics and AI portfolio, serves an estimated 100,000 organizations globally. Originally introduced in 1968 and acquired by IBM in 2009, SPSS has become the industry gold standard for statistical analytics. The platform enables organizations to turn complex data into actionable insights through advanced statistical analysis, predictive modeling, regression, and forecasting, with use cases ranging from business intelligence and research analytics to fraud detection and criminal investigation. With decades of reliability, extensive analytical functionality, and emerging AI-assisted insights, SPSS continues to be the trusted platform for accurate, data driven decision making at scale. As one example, SPSS is used by roughly 80% of all US universities.

IBM SPSS Licensing Models and Packaging

IBM distributes SPSS Statistics across desktops and enterprise networks through several Thales Sentinel licensing models designed to support the diverse needs of its customers. The company offers perpetual licenses, subscription licenses such as annual or monthly agreements, and trial licenses to test the software before purchasing. Using Sentinel, they provide an array of billing options, such as

concurrent licenses, authorized user licenses, or site-based licenses, and packages with progressively advanced capabilities, including Base, Standard, Professional, and Premium editions. Moreover, additional features such as Custom Tables, Advanced Statistics, Forecasting, Decision Trees, and Complex Sampling, are built into the software and only become accessible when the appropriate license is applied. **This licensing approach allows IBM to distribute a single product while enabling add-ons,** without the need to separate software builds.

Sentinel Licensing Capabilities for IBM SPSS

- Monetize software at scale
- Secure software with a machine locked setup
- Prevent revenue leakage from software overuse
- Quicken go to market with new pricing and packaging
- Flexible packaging with feature based licensing controls
- Subscription and perpetual models
- Offline activation for restricted environments
- Integration with IBM’s infrastructure



Supporting Secure Offline Environments

IBM uses on-premises software licensing, integrated with IBM’s existing ecosystem. A significant portion of SPSS customers operate in highly secure environments where systems must maintain strict network isolation. These offline environments—often called “dark sites”—are common in government agencies, financial institutions, and regulated industries. Sentinel enables licensing in these offline environments by allowing license strings to be generated without requiring direct internet connectivity. In these cases, the machine lock code can be transmitted through email or an intermediary system, where the license is generated and provided to the customer. Once installed, the license allows SPSS to run without ongoing connectivity requirements, allowing offline usage.

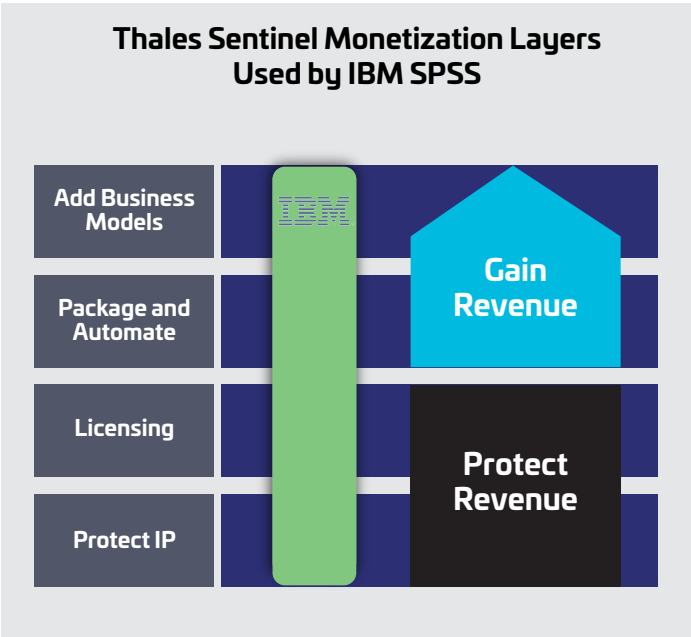
Strategic Impact and Future Outlook

Sentinel continues to support SPSS’s evolving licensing and monetization strategy. The reliability and support of Thales allowed SPSS to maintain a secure and flexible licensing framework for nearly three decades.

Looking forward, IBM is exploring new licensing approaches, especially concerning protection against AI-and/or automation-based hacking. usage. For example, one concern is that organizations could create AI agents or automated workflows to all access a single licensed copy of SPSS, allowing multiple users to access the software without paying. Rather than blocking these scenarios entirely, IBM is evaluating this scenario as an opportunity to charge for additional access on a single license.

Conclusion

For nearly thirty years, Thales Sentinel has helped IBM protect and monetize one of the world’s most trusted statistical analysis platforms. By enabling secure license enforcement, flexible packaging, and offline deployment capabilities, Sentinel allows IBM SPSS to serve a diverse global customer base spanning academia, enterprise, and government. As analytics, AI, and automation continue to evolve, the licensing infrastructure provided by Sentinel gives IBM the flexibility to adapt its SPSS Statistics monetization strategy while maintaining strong protection for its software.



About Thales Sentinel

Thales Sentinel is the leading platform for software licensing, protection, and monetization. Our solutions enable software providers to generate new revenue streams, improve operational efficiency, increase customer satisfaction, and gain valuable business insights. Based on award-winning technology, Sentinel has a strong global customer base with thousands of customers in 100+ countries spanning 30+ industries.

About Thales

Thales is a global leader in cybersecurity, helping the most trusted organizations protect critical applications, data, identities, and software anywhere, at scale. Through Thales’ integrated platforms, customers achieve better visibility of risks, defend against cyber threats, close compliance gaps, and deliver trusted digital experiences for billions of consumers every day.