

## **National Instruments License Manager Help**

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Use the National Instruments License Manager to activate and manage your licenses or configure NI products on your system to obtain licenses from network license servers.

To navigate this help file, use the **Contents**, **Index**, and **Search** tabs to the left of this window.

For more information about this help file, refer to the following topics:

<u>Conventions</u>—formatting and typographical conventions in this help file

Important Information

Technical Support and Professional Services

To comment on National Instruments documentation, refer to the <u>National</u> <u>Instruments Web site</u>.

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## **License Management Overview**

**License management** is the process of controlling access to products based on an <u>explicit license agreement</u>. Certain National Instruments software products require an activated license in order to execute.

You must acquire and activate a license before you can use a product in full-featured, nonexpiring mode. The activation process involves using the NI Activation Wizard to send the following information to National Instruments:

- The **product** you are activating
- The **version** of the product you are activating
- The serial number of the product you are activating
- Your name
- Your organization
- A computer ID that uniquely identifies your computer

National Instruments uses this information to generate an **activation code**, which you then use to activate the product on your system. National Instruments does not use this information for any other purpose. Refer to the <u>Software Licensing Information Privacy</u> topic for information on the National Instruments privacy policy regarding your personal information.

The NI Activation Wizard offers a variety of options you can use to obtain an activation code from National Instruments, including automatically through an Internet connection or using a Web browser, email client, telephone or fax machine. Activation is available 24 hours a day.

 $\overline{\mathbb{N}}$ 

**Note** Refer to National Instruments activation Web site, <u>ni.com/activate</u>, for the latest information regarding activation and license management.

For information on more NI License Manager tasks, refer to <u>What Do You</u> <u>Want to Do?</u>

# The NI License Manager Environment

The left pane of NI License Manager displays all licenses accessible by your computer, organized hierarchically in a tree control (NI License Manager tree). The right pane contains context-sensitive information based on the item you have selected in the NI License Manager tree. The following table provides a description of each type of item that could appear in the tree.

lcon	Label	Description	Right Pane Contents
	Local Licenses	Displays all locally installed licenses.	Help links
30	networkServer	Displays all licenses on a network license server.	Displays the server name and status.
V	<i>parentProduct</i> (icon may vary)	Specifies the parent product.	Displays Web help provided from ni.com, if enabled.
	product	An activated or otherwise fully featured, nonexpiring license.	Specific information about the license including: • product name • associated software • product version • license expiration date* • license status* • agreement ID**

			<ul> <li>agreement company**</li> <li>agreement expiration**</li> <li>*Not available on network licenses</li> <li>**Available on network licenses only</li> </ul>
	product	A nonexpiring evaluation license.	Same as above
	product	An activated or otherwise fully featured, expiring license.	Same as above
	product	An expiring evaluation license.	Same as above
	product	A fully featured license that has expired.	Same as above
	product	An evaluation license that has expired.	Same as above
	product	An unlicensed product or a product being served from a network license server.	Same as above
	product	A product that you prevent from requesting permissions from the parent license server.	Same as above
	product	An unusable license, possibly due to a corrupted license file, or a license file that requires reactivation.	Same as above
Ľ	Modules	Contains add-on modules for a parent product.	None
<b>!</b> 1	Toolkits	Contains add-on toolkits for a parent product.	None

0	message	An informational message.	Extended
			description of the
			message

The **Options** menu contains the following options:

Option	Descript	ion
Activate	Starts the NI Activation Wizard to activate a product.	
Display Computer Information	Displays	your system's computer ID and computer name.
Install License File	Installs a new license file on your system.	
Refresh	Refreshe	s the contents of NI License Manager.
Preferences		help, start-up, and network license server es. You can set the following options:
	License	Check this box and then enter the names of your network license servers to use this option. NI License Manager first checks a network server location for a license before checking your local license server. You can enter either a server name, the server's network name, or the server's IP address. For more information, refer to <u>Using</u> <u>a Network License Server</u> .
	Show Web Help	Shows or hides supplemental information provided from ni.com. <b>Note</b> Internet Explorer 5.0 or higher is required to view Web help.
	Start Local License Server on System Start	Starts the local license server on system startup. Most products do not require the local license server. The controls for this feature appear only if you install LabVIEW Remote Panel Connections 8.5 or earlier. For more information, refer to <u>Using the Local License Server</u> .

	Note This preference requires you to be logged in as an Administrator, and is not available on Microsoft Windows Vista.
Exit	Exits NI License Manager.

The Toolbar contains the following items:

lcon	Button	Description
	Activate	Starts the NI Activation Wizard to activate a product.
<b>9</b> 0	Display Computer Information	Displays your system's computer ID and computer name.
<b>.</b>	Start/Stop Local License Server	Starts or stops the local license server. Most products do not require the local license server. The controls for this feature appear only if you install LabVIEW Remote Panel Connections 8.5 or earlier. For more information, refer to <u>Using the Local License Server</u> .



### Α

activated Allows a product to be used on one particular computer. You license cannot use this license file on another computer.

activation The process of activating a product for use on your computer.

activation A 20-character value that is generated by National

code Instruments and used during the activation process.

### С

computer ID	A 16-character value that uniquely identifies your computer. It is used by National Instruments in the <u>activation code</u> generation process.
computer- based license	A license for a single computer that allows multiple users and a single home installation.
concurrent license	A license type where licenses are assigned dynamically on a first-come, first-served basis. Concurrent licenses can be managed or unmanaged. Managed concurrent licenses require users or computers to have permissions assigned in NI VLM. An unlimited number of users or computers can have permissions for managed concurrent licenses. Unmanaged concurrent licenses do not require users or computers to have permissions assigned in NI VLM. Their use is unrestricted.

### Ε

evaluation Allows a product to be used with certain limitations, such as reduced functionality or limited execution time.

F

family A keyword used in command-line activation to represent a collection of related products (for example, LabVIEW Base, LabVIEW Full, LabVIEW Professional). Refer to <u>Automating Activation</u> for more information.

### L

license The legal right to use a particular product under the terms of a license agreement.

license A file that contains a license for one or more products. Typically,

file there is at least one license file for each product on your system.

### Ν

named-user license	A license for a single person, limited to three installations per license, where each license is used only on one computer at a time. This license also allows a home license.
NI Activation Wizard	Guides you through the activation process. To launch the NI Activation Wizard, click the <b>Activate</b> button in the NI License Manager toolbar, select the <b>Options</b> »Activate menu item, or double-click on the product you want to activate.
NI License Manager	A utility program used to manage various tasks associated with license management and activation.
NI Volume License Manager (NI VLM)	A utility program used to administer licenses available through a National Instruments Volume License Agreement.
numeric computer ID	A 25-character, numeric encoding of a <u>computer ID</u> for activating a product over the telephone.
numeric product/version	A 10-character, numeric encoding of a <u>product</u> and version for activating a product over the telephone.
numeric serial number	A 15-character, numeric encoding of a <u>serial number</u> for activating a product over the telephone.

#### Ρ

- package A keyword used in command-line activation that represents a specific product. Refer to <u>Automating Activation</u> for more information.
- product A software component that requires a license to use. A product can be a single product, one or more features of a single product, or a bundle of several products.

### S

serial An alphanumeric value located on the Certificate of Ownership number or license card included with purchased products. The serial number is used by NI in the activation code generation process.

# **Activating a Product**

You must activate your product before using it in accordance with its <u>license agreement</u>. To activate a product, you must first purchase a license. For information on purchasing licenses, contact your local National Instruments sales representative or visit <u>ni.com/niglobal</u>.

Once you have purchased a license, you can activate your product using the NI Activation Wizard. The NI Activation Wizard prompts you for your name, your organization, and the serial numbers of the products you are activating. You can find the serial number on the Certificate of Ownership or license card included with each product. If your software kit does not include a Certificate of Ownership, you can find your serial number on the product packing slip or on the shipping label.

If you have installed a previous version using your serial number, you can find the serial number by selecting the **Help\*About** menu item within the application or by selecting your product within NI License Manager. You can also contact your local National Instruments <u>branch</u>.

To activate your products, click the **Activate** button on the toolbar or double-click your product in the NI License Manager tree and follow the NI Activation Wizard prompts. You can also right-click the product in the NI License Manager tree and select **Activate**.

Upon successful activation, you can use the product immediately.

- Note If you were using a product before you began the activation process, you may need to restart it for the change to take effect.
- Note If your NI software is licensed through a volume license agreement, you do not need to activate your product. Instead, you need to point NI License Manager to a network server. For more information, refer to <u>Using a Network License Server</u>.

## Moving an Activated Product to Another Computer

To transfer your software to another computer, install and <u>activate</u> it on the second computer. You will not be prohibited from transferring your software from one computer to another. If you exceed the number of computers allowed in the <u>NI Software License Agreement</u>, you must uninstall the extra installations.



**Note** If your organization uses NI Volume License Manager to manage NI software under a volume license agreement (VLA), notify your VLA administrator before transferring your software to another computer.

## **Deactivating a Product**

To deactivate a product and return the product to the state it was in before you activated it, right-click the product in the NI License Manager tree and select **Deactivate**. If the product was in evaluation mode before you activated it, the properties of the evaluation mode may not be restored.

#### **Reactivating a Deactivated Product**

You can reactivate a <u>deactivated</u> product using the NI Activation Wizard. If you saved the activation code from a previous activation for this computer, select **Apply one or more 20-character activation codes previously acquired for this computer** and follow the prompts. Otherwise, select one of the other two options and follow the NI Activation Wizard prompts.

## Using a Network License Server

You can check out licenses from a network server if your company has a Volume License Agreement with National Instruments.

#### Using a Network License Server

Complete the following steps to use a network server:

- 1. Select the **Options»Preferences** menu item.
- 2. Click the Use Network License Servers checkbox.
- 3. Enter the names of the network servers, separated by commas, on which your NI products should check for licenses. You can enter either a server name, the server's network name, or the server's IP address. You can also configure your products to look at a specific port on a network server. Enter the network server name followed by colon and the port number: *server*[:*port*]. For example:

server server:27000 server.domain.com:28432 127.0.0.2

are all legal server names. When no port is specified, 27000 is implied. Ports range from 0-64000, inclusive.

If you enter server1, server2:28001, server3 and then launch a product that requires a license, your product first checks port 27000 of server1 for a valid license, then moves to port 28001 of server2, port 27000 of server3, and finally your local system. If your product does not find a license on any of the network servers or your local system, your product does not start.

#### Notes

- If you are running NI Volume License Manager on the same computer as NI License Manager, you must set your network license server to localhost or 127.0.0.1 to check out a license from the licenses being served by your local NI VLM.
- Contact your volume license agreement software administrator to obtain the server information.
- 4. Click OK.

You can now check out and use products from the network license server.



- A License Server item is denoted by \$\$ if it is active and by
   if it is inactive. The right pane displays the server name, server status, administrator information, and volume license agreement information, if available.
- If you need to check out licenses from a "triple redundant" network server, list all three server names, separated by commas, in this box to properly configure your client.

For more information about the NI Volume License Program, refer to <u>ni.com/vlp</u>.

#### Switching between Concurrent Licenses

NI License Manager looks for all licenses available on the network license server. If your NI volume license agreement includes concurrent licenses for multiple types of the same product, you can switch between concurrent licenses to use a specific product type.

For example, if you have concurrent licenses for LabVIEW Professional and LabVIEW Full and you need only LabVIEW Full, you can disable license checkout for LabVIEW Professional to save the license for a colleague who needs its features.

To prevent using a specific network license, right-click on the product listed under a network license server and select **Do Not Allow License Request**. The **Server License Request** status reflected in the right-hand view changes to **Not Allowed**.



- Concurrent license switching works on products shipped in August 2008 or later, such as LabVIEW 8.6, that use concurrent licenses.
- This feature is available only for concurrent licenses hosted by a network license server. If you are using managed concurrent licenses, you must have permission assigned on the network license server. Contact your volume license agreement software administrator for assistance assigning permissions.

To resume using the product, right-click on the product listed under a network license server and select **Allow License Request**. The **Server License Request** status reflected in the right-hand view changes to **Allowed**.

# Installing a License File

You may need to install onto your system a new license file that you receive from National Instruments or a disconnected or home license file that you received from a network license server administrator. Select one of the following methods to install your license:

- Select **Options**»Install License File from the menu and choose one or more license files to install.
- Select one or more license files in Windows Explorer and drag them onto the NI License Manager tree.

NI License Manager updates to reflect the addition of the new license files. Remember, you still might need to activate new licenses. For more information, refer to <u>Activating a Product</u>.



**Note** Disconnected and home license files generated by NI Volume License Manager do not need to be activated.



**Note** To permanently remove disconnected and home license files from your computer, right-click a licensed product in the NI License Manager tree and select **Uninstall**.

# Activating a Product for Home Use

To activate your product for home use, as allowed in your <u>license</u> <u>agreement</u>, install and <u>activate</u> the product on your home computer using the same serial number.



**Note** If your organization uses NI Volume License Manager, notify your administrator to request a license file for home use. After you install the product and the license file on your home computer, you do not have to activate. Refer to <u>Installing a License File</u> for more information.

# **Recovering a Deleted or Damaged License File**

If you accidentally delete or damage a license file, you can restore it. How you restore your license file depends on what kind of license file you need, as follows:

- To restore a license file installed with an application, perform the following steps:
  - 1. Browse to <u>ni.com/downloads</u>, select **Drivers and Updates**, and browse, by product, to the appropriate license file.
  - 2. Download the desired evaluation license file.
  - 3. Launch NI License Manager and install the license file that you downloaded. Refer to <u>Installing a License File</u> for more information about installing a license file.
    - Note If you have a damaged license file, NI License Manager asks whether you want to overwrite the existing file when you install a new license file. Click **Yes**.
  - 4. Activate the newly installed license. Refer to <u>Activating a</u> <u>Product</u> above for more information.
- To restore a license file given to you by a National Instruments Volume License Program administrator (either a disconnected or a home license file), contact your administrator for another copy.

## **Using the Local License Server**

Note Most products do not require the Local License Server. The controls for this feature remain hidden unless you have installed LabVIEW Remote Panel Connections 8.5 or earlier.

Use the Local License Server to manage licenses for LabVIEW Remote panel Connections 8.5 or earlier and display the current status of the License Server. The License Server consists of two daemon processes (lmgrd and nilm) that run as services.

To start or stop an inactive server, click the **Start/Stop Local License Server** button on the NI License Manager toolbar. This feature requires you to be logged in as an Administrator, and is not available on Microsoft Windows Vista.

Note If you use LabVIEW 8.5 or earlier, you cannot manage the Local License Server if you have NI Volume License Manager (NI VLM) installed on the same computer as NI License Manager. Consequently, LabVIEW Remote Panel Connections cannot be used if NI VLM is installed. If you encounter this situation, contact National Instruments for a resolution.

## **Automating Activation**

If you are a license administrator or if you are responsible for transferring NI products to end users, you can automate product activation and add network license servers by running NI License Manager from a command line or from a batch file.

#### What do you want to do?

• Launch NI Activation Wizard. This command is equivalent to clicking the Activate button in NI License Manager.

Syntax: nilmUtil.exe -all

 Launch NI Activation Wizard with a preselected package or family. This command is equivalent to right-clicking on a product or family in NI License Manager and selecting Activate to activate a product.

#### Package

Syntax: nilmUtil.exe -activate "packagename version" Example: nilmUtil.exe -activate "LabVIEW PDSM PKG 8.0500"

#### Family

Syntax: nilmUtil.exe -family "family" Example: nilmUtil.exe -family "LabVIEW\_ADE\_080600"

NI Activation Wizard launches and steps you through the process of activating your product.

• Activate a product silently. You can activate a product without launching the NI Activation Wizard using command-line flags. The -s flag triggers a silent activation. You can use the -s flag only with the -family or -activate flags.



Note This option requires an Internet connection that allows access to ni.com over an encrypted web connection (https).

Syntax: nilmUtil.exe -s -activate "*packagename*" -serialnumber "serialnumber" [-firstname "firstname"] [-lastname "lastname"] [organizationname "organizationname"]

Example: nilmUtil.exe -s -activate "LabVIEW\_PDSM\_PKG 8.0500" serialnumber "A111A1A11" -firstname "Jane" -lastname "Doe" organizationname "Company Name"

NI License Manager silently activates your product.



**Note** If you enter incorrect or incomplete information such

as a invalid serial number, activation may fail. In order not to interfere with your remaining automation scripts, no error message will appear. You must activate manually before you can use your software.

• Silently point a computer to a network license server to check out licenses. This command is equivalent to using the Options»Preferences menu item to add a license server.

Syntax: nilmUtil.exe -addservers servername[:portnumber]
[,servername[:portnumber],...]

Examples:

nilmUtil.exe -addservers server1 nilmUtil.exe -addservers server1:28000 nilmUtil.exe -addservers server1:28000,server2

You can now use NI License Manager to check out licenses from the newly added network license server.

### Command-line Flags

NI License Manager command-line flags are listed in the following table.

Flag	Description
-S	Activates a family or feature in silent mode (-activate or -family). If you use silent mode, you must supply the serial number. First name, last name, and organization name are optional if they can be loaded from the computer preferences.
-activate	Activates a specific version of a single <u>package</u> using the Internet. You must provide the package name or feature and the version.
	You can find the package name in your license file, which is located in the \Program Files\National Instruments\Shared\License Manager\Licenses directory. Open the license file in a text editor and look for the PACKAGE line. Copy the text that includes _PKG and the version number that follows nilm on the PACKAGE line.
-family	Activates a single <u>family</u> using the Internet. You must provide the family name or feature and the version.
	You can find the family name in your license file, which is located in the \Program Files\National Instruments\Shared\License Manager\Licenses directory. Open the license file in a text editor and look for the FAMILY= line. Copy the text after the equals sign that includes the family name and version.
-all	Launches NI Activation Wizard for any installed products. This command cannot be used silently.
-all product	Launches NI Activation Wizard for a preselected product. This command cannot be used silently.

-serialnumber	The serial number of the product. You must provide the serial number of the feature or family to activate when using -s flag.
-firstname	The user's first name. This flag is optional if the first name can be loaded from the computer preferences.
-lastname	The user's last name. This flag is optional if the last name can be loaded from the computer preferences.
-organizationname	The user's organization or company. This flag is optional if the organization name can be loaded from the computer preferences.
-addservers	Adds a server to a list of existing servers. The port number is optional. servername is required. Port 27000 is the default if no port is specified.
	ve numerous licenses to activate, consider using NI

**Note** If you have numerous licenses to activate, consider using NI Volume License Manager with a Volume License Agreement. For more information, visit <u>ni.com/vlp</u>.

# **Using Help**

<u>Conventions</u> <u>Navigating Help</u> <u>Searching Help</u> <u>Printing Help File Topics</u>

# Conventions

This help file uses the following conventions:

»	The » symbol leads you through nested menu items and dialog box options to a final action. The sequence <b>File»Page Setup»Options</b> directs you to pull down the <b>File</b> menu, select the <b>Page Setup</b> item, and select <b>Options</b> from the last dialog box.
[]	Square brackets enclose optional items—for example, [response].
P	This icon denotes a tip, which alerts you to advisory information.
	This icon denotes a note, which alerts you to important information.
bold	Bold text denotes items that you must select or click on in the software, such as menu items and dialog box options. Bold text also denotes parameter names, emphasis, or an introduction to a key concept.
<u>green</u>	Underlined text in this color denotes a link to a help topic, help file, or Web address.
italic	Italic text denotes variables or cross references. This font also denotes text that is a placeholder for a word or value that you must supply.
monospace	Text in this font denotes text or characters that you should enter from the keyboard, sections of code, programming examples, and syntax examples. This font is also used for the proper names of disk drives, paths, directories, programs, subprograms, subroutines, device names, functions, operations, variables, filenames, and extensions.
monospace italic	Italic text in this font denotes text that is a placeholder for a word or value that you must supply.

# **Navigating Help (Windows Only)**

To navigate this help file, use the **Contents**, **Index**, and **Search** tabs to the left of this window or use the following toolbar buttons located above the tabs:

- Hide—Hides the navigation pane from view.
- Locate—Locates the currently displayed topic in the Contents tab, allowing you to view related topics.
- **Back**—Displays the previously viewed topic.
- **Forward**—Displays the topic you viewed before clicking the **Back** button.
- **Options**—Displays a list of commands and viewing options for the help file.
## **Searching Help (Windows Only)**

Use the **Search** tab to the left of this window to locate content in this help file. If you want to search for words in a certain order, such as "related documentation," add quotation marks around the search words as shown in the example. Searching for terms on the **Search** tab allows you to quickly locate specific information and information in topics that are not included on the **Contents** tab.

#### Wildcards

You also can search using asterisk (\*) or question mark (?) wildcards. Use the asterisk wildcard to return topics that contain a certain string. For example, a search for "prog\*" lists topics that contain the words "program," "programmatically," "progress," and so on.

Use the question mark wildcard as a substitute for a single character in a search term. For example, "?ext" lists topics that contain the words "next," "text," and so on.



**Note** Wildcard searching will not work on Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Japanese, and Korean systems.

#### **Nested Expressions**

Use nested expressions to combine searches to further refine a search. You can use Boolean expressions and wildcards in a nested expression. For example, "example AND (program OR VI)" lists topics that contain "example program" or "example VI." You cannot nest expressions more than five levels.

#### **Boolean Expressions**

Click the **•** button to add Boolean expressions to a search. The following Boolean operators are available:

- **AND** (default)—Returns topics that contain both search terms. You do not need to specify this operator unless you are using nested expressions.
- **OR**—Returns topics that contain either the first or second term.
- **NOT**—Returns topics that contain the first term without the second term.
- **NEAR**—Returns topics that contain both terms within eight words of each other.

#### **Search Options**

Use the following checkboxes on the **Search** tab to customize a search:

- Search previous results—Narrows the results from a search that returned too many topics. You must remove the checkmark from this checkbox to search all topics.
- Match similar words—Broadens a search to return topics that contain words similar to the search terms. For example, a search for "program" lists topics that include the words "programs," "programming," and so on.
- Search titles only—Searches only in the titles of topics.

## **Printing Help File Topics (Windows Only)**

Complete the following steps to print an entire book from the **Contents** tab:

- 1. Right-click the book.
- 2. Select **Print** from the shortcut menu to display the **Print Topics** dialog box.
- 3. Select the **Print the selected heading and all subtopics** option.
  - Note Select Print the selected topic if you want to print the single topic you have selected in the **Contents** tab.
- 4. Click the **OK** button.

#### **Printing PDF Documents**

This help file may contain links to PDF documents. To print PDF documents, click the print button located on the Adobe Acrobat Viewer toolbar.

## **Important Information**

Warranty Copyright Trademarks Patents Warning Regarding Use of NI Products

#### Warranty

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Note For the latest version of this policy, refer to the <u>Software</u> <u>Licensing Information Privacy</u> Web site.

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If you choose to register your software or submit NI Volume License Manager activity logs with user information, your information will be protected according to the <u>National Instruments Privacy Policy</u>.

#### Patents

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#### <u>Glossary</u>

The NI License Manager Environment

Understanding the NI Software License Agreement

#### **Common Tasks**

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- Move an Activated Product to Another Computer
- Deactivate a Product
- Use a Network License Server
- <u>Switch between Concurrent Licenses</u>
- Install a License File
- <u>Activate a Product for Home Use</u>
- <u>Recover a Deleted or Damaged License File</u>
- Use the Local License Server
- <u>Automate Activation</u>

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