





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Deploying Autodesk software to many computers

By:  **AUTODESK**.Support
Oct 12 2017

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Issue:

You want to deploy Autodesk products across a large number of computers (such as in a computer lab at a school).

- [Network Deployment](#)
- [Imaging and Ghosting](#)
- [Group Policy](#)

Solution:

Following is a summary of the most popular, fast, and efficient means of installing Autodesk software on multiple PCs. Keep in mind that individual settings such as folder or directory permissions, firewall, and anti-virus may cause problems. Your Autodesk Authorized Partner may offer onsite or remote installation service packages for a fee if you are looking for professional deployment help.

Network Deployment

Support for network installation is built into the Autodesk installer program. Network deployments essentially use a standard product configuration and install it onto the client PC. Network deployment bypasses the need to run the Setup program on each computer. Rather, you run the Deployment Creation wizard on one PC, select a shared network folder on which to deploy it, change any settings as appropriate in the wizard, and then initiate the network deployment.

Once done, you can browse to the shared network folder on any client PC and run the deployment routine, then repeat the process on all remaining PC's. The client deployment happens seamlessly without user intervention, and the Autodesk applications are quickly ready to run on all deployed PC's.

Requirements

Depending on the Autodesk product being installed, network deployments require

- Several gigabytes of available space on both the shared network folder and on all client PC's.
- The shared network folder be on a computer running Windows Server, which supports many simultaneous connections. (Windows XP and Windows 7 only support ten simultaneous connections.)
- A TCP/IP network.

To begin a network deployment via the Deployment Creation wizard:

1. Launch the Setup program on your Autodesk product DVD or in the folder containing your Autodesk product download.
2. Select "Create Deployments" from the splash screen that appears when you run the program, and it will start the wizard.

For more help in creating a Network deployment, contact your Autodesk Authorized Partner for technical support.

Imaging and Ghosting AUTODESK (http://www.autodesk.com/)

Another fast and easy way to deploy Autodesk software on many PC's is to use imaging and ghosting software. "Imaging" essentially duplicates one computer's hard drive contents into a file which then can be replicated onto other PCs on your network. Each PC then would have the exact same contents on its hard drive.

Note: Imaging and ghosting will erase all programs and data on the other PCs and replace them with the contents of the master PC.

Requirements

As with Network Deployments, imaging and ghosting require the following:

- Each computer should have several gigabytes available for the Autodesk application install, and also a TCP/IP network.
- Every computer must have identical hardware, including motherboards, network components, video adapters, etc. This is because the Windows registry settings and installed drivers for the master PC will be duplicated to every other ghosted PC. If you ghost to a computer with a different hardware configuration, you will encounter compatibility issues which may or may not be solvable.
- You need imaging and ghosting software such as Acronis True Image or Symantec (aka Norton) Ghost. Other applications are available, but these are the two most widely used.

Depending on whether you are using Autodesk Network License Manager (NLM) or Autodesk Standalone Licenses (SLM), you will do two very different things before ghosting to the other PC's.

- **For NLM installations**, before you push the image to the other computers, make sure you've installed all of the Autodesk programs that you want to deploy on the other networked PC's. You also must run each program at least once on the master, so that it's registered in and initializes the system registry.
- **For SLM licenses**, you do NOT want to activate the Autodesk programs before ghosting. Autodesk standalone licenses are tied to a PC's network unique MAC address, so activating the program on the master computer will link the program to that particular MAC address. If you then ghost the image to other computers with different MAC addresses, you will encounter major licensing issues which will take a lot of time and effort to resolve.

For more information about imaging and ghosting drives, contact your Autodesk Authorized Partner for technical support.

Group Policy

If you are knowledgeable about Windows Server and its Active Directory and Group Policy Management, consider deploying via *Group Policy*. Group Policy is a system that allows you to implement specific configurations for designated computers. Group Policy settings are contained in Group Policy objects (GPOs), which are linked to Active Directory service containers and are pushed to the PCs that you specify. To use Group Policy you will need a Windows Server PC, Active Directory, Group Policy, a TCP/IP network. You also should be familiar with Active Directory and Group Policy.

For more information about deployment of Autodesk software via Group Policy, contact your Autodesk Authorized Partner for technical support.

Note: As of the 2015 release Group Policy Objects (GPO) are no longer supported as a method of distributing Autodesk products to Windows computers. This point is mentioned in the topic [Alternative Product Distribution Methods](http://help.autodesk.com/view/INSTALL_LICENSE/2015/ENU/?guid=GUID-F3B718E3-0172-4243-9DE2-4A86576661CA). (http://help.autodesk.com/view/INSTALL_LICENSE/2015/ENU/?guid=GUID-F3B718E3-0172-4243-9DE2-4A86576661CA)

See Also:

[Network License Administration](https://knowledge.autodesk.com/customer-service/network-license-administration/get-ready-network-license) (<https://knowledge.autodesk.com/customer-service/network-license-administration/get-ready-network-license>) > [Network Deployment](https://knowledge.autodesk.com/customer-service/network-license-administration/network-deployment) (<https://knowledge.autodesk.com/customer-service/network-license-administration/network-deployment>)

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