

Standalone License Management for SolidWorks

This document covers the following topics:

- How a “standalone” SolidWorks license operates
- Best practices for tracking SolidWorks licenses within a company
- The method for moving a SolidWorks license between workstations

How do standalone licenses work for SolidWorks?

Starting with the release of SolidWorks 2007, SolidWorks now allows its end users to be in control of when and where standalone licenses are allowed to be used. They did this by creating a centralized license databank called the SolidWorks Activation Server (SAS) which acts as a license library. On each serial number in this library there are two licenses for a single user to use; one for office use and one for that user at home. Splitting the two licenses on a serial number between separate users is not permitted.

Here is how a license is used. Following the installation of SolidWorks, when the program starts for the first time, it finds that there is not a license yet to run the software. It will immediately offer to sync with the SAS and check out a license. Checking out a license is called “Activating” a license. That license will now stay on that workstation with no further communication with the SAS, and will allow SolidWorks to operate indefinitely. The license can be returned from the actively licensed workstation to the SAS only if the user explicitly checks the license back into the SAS; checking in a license in this way is called “Transferring” a license.

This process of being able to activate a license and transfer a license from a workstation allows the license to be moved from one workstation to another, running the same serial number, at will.

What are the best practices for license tracking and management?

Since there is a work and home activation on each SolidWorks serial number it is easy to lose track of where each serial number is installed. For this reason, it is highly recommended that some sort of tracking system be set up to record what user a serial number is assigned to and what two computers in this user’s possession have the serial number activated.

Even for large companies this can be a simple spreadsheet showing the serial number, assigned user, and the names of both computers such as the table shown below.

Serial Number	Assign User	Computer Name 1	Computer Name 2
9000 0012 3456 7890 ABCD EFGH	John Smith	John-Office	John-Home
.	.	.	.
.	.	.	.
.	.	.	.

Rocky Mountain

Boise: 208.377.9901
Salt Lake City: 801.359.6100
Denver: 303.495.2451

Central U.S.

Dallas: 972.395.2138
Houston: 713.735.3295
Ft. Worth: 972.395.2138
Austin: 512.293.4881
Alabama: 877.395.2100
Louisiana: 877.395.2100

Northern California

Santa Clara: 408.213.1580
Sacramento: 916.797.9177
Petaluma: 408.213.1580

Oklahoma

Tulsa: 918.491.1800
Oklahoma City: 972.395.2138
Duncan: 580.470.9312

Southern California

Santa Barbara: 818.716.1650
Woodland Hills: 818.716.1650
San Dimas: 714.438.1401
Torrance: 310.328.3075
Costa Mesa: 714.438.1400
San Diego: 858.753.0006
Hawaii: 800.688.3234

1.800.688.3234|www.goengineer.com

This tabulated file should then be updated in an ongoing manner by either the IT or CAD administrator that oversees SolidWorks users or workstations. Whoever is assigned the task need not be familiar with SolidWorks itself, but just how SolidWorks serial numbers and licenses work as outlined by this document.

During the activation process, the program will require the entry of an email address. This is purely survey information meant to help track licenses. It is recommended that the email address of the end user be entered so that technical support can better assist in tracking down lost or scrapped workstations if there is such a need. At times companies choose to enter the email address of the IT or CAD administrator tracking SolidWorks licenses. This is less helpful in tracking workstations once that IT or CAD administrator is transferred or leaves the company.

What is the normal method of transferring the license between workstations?

The activation of a license on a computer is relatively straight forward. A workstation that does not currently have a license will request to sync with the SAS as soon as the SolidWorks application is opened. This “SolidWorks Product Activation” wizard will give options to either sync “automatically over the internet” or sync “manually via email” by transfer of coded .TXT files. The option for syncing “automatically over the internet” is the default and preferred method, but the option for “manually via email” is offered for workstations that do not have access, or are expressly forbidden from accessing the internet.

The method to transfer the license is less well known, but still relatively straight forward. Within SolidWorks, going to the ‘Help’ menu will show a ‘Transfer License’ command. Executing this command will bring up the “SolidWorks Product Activation” wizard and will give options to either sync “automatically over the internet” or sync “manually via email” by transfer of coded .TXT files. Finalizing this command using “automatically over the internet” will immediately send the license back to the SAS and turn the SolidWorks application off. Finalizing this command using “manually via email” will still shut down the SolidWorks application but the license will not be sent back to the SAS until the coded .TXT is emailed in to it.

Accordingly, moving a license between two workstations that are installed using the same serial number would proceed like this:

STEP1: Transfer the license off the old workstation.

1. Inside SolidWorks, go to 'Help', 'Transfer License'
2. A transfer “SolidWorks Product Activation” wizard should come up and offer to transfer the license, allow the system to sync with the SolidWorks license mainframe and transfer the license off

STEP2: Activate the software on the new computer

1. Open SolidWorks.
2. An activation “SolidWorks Product Activation” wizard should come up and offer to activate, allow the system to sync with the SolidWorks license mainframe and activate.

Rocky Mountain

Boise: 208.377.9901
Salt Lake City: 801.359.6100
Denver: 303.495.2451

Central U.S.

Dallas: 972.395.2138
Houston: 713.735.3295
Ft. Worth: 972.395.2138
Austin: 512.293.4881
Alabama: 877.395.2100
Louisiana: 877.395.2100

Northern California

Santa Clara: 408.213.1580
Sacramento: 916.797.9177
Petaluma: 408.213.1580

Oklahoma

Tulsa: 918.491.1800
Oklahoma City: 972.395.2138
Duncan: 580.470.9312

Southern California

Santa Barbara: 818.716.1650
Woodland Hills: 818.716.1650
San Dimas: 714.438.1401
Torrance: 310.328.3075
Costa Mesa: 714.438.1400
San Diego: 858.753.0006
Hawaii: 800.688.3234

1.800.688.3234|www.goengineer.com



Given the nature of how the standalone license works, it would be a good idea to proceed with STEP1 described above prior to doing any of the following actions on a licensed SolidWorks system:

- Uninstalling SolidWorks from a workstation
- Decommissioning a workstation
- Moving from an older workstation to a new, replacement workstation
- Upgrading the operating system on a workstation
- Changing hardware on the workstation (Hard Drives, Motherboards, Video Cards, etc.)
- Changing serial numbers on a workstation.
- Repurposing a workstation for non-SolidWorks use

It is always a safe choice to transfer a license off a workstation undergoing any kind of maintenance through IT; the license can always be put back on a workstation from the SAS. However, if there is a hardware failure on the workstation while it still has a license on it, the license may become trapped and unable to be returned to the SAS. If you experience any kind of hardware failure resulting in a trapped license, please contact GoEngineer Technical Support immediately at (888) 559-6167 or support@goengineer.com and a plan of action can be determined for returning the trapped license.

Rocky Mountain

Boise: 208.377.9901
Salt Lake City: 801.359.6100
Denver: 303.495.2451

Central U.S.

Dallas: 972.395.2138
Houston: 713.735.3295
Ft. Worth: 972.395.2138
Austin: 512.293.4881
Alabama: 877.395.2100
Louisiana: 877.395.2100

Northern California

Santa Clara: 408.213.1580
Sacramento: 916.797.9177
Petaluma: 408.213.1580

Oklahoma

Tulsa: 918.491.1800
Oklahoma City: 972.395.2138
Duncan: 580.470.9312

Southern California

Santa Barbara: 818.716.1650
Woodland Hills: 818.716.1650
San Dimas: 714.438.1401
Torrance: 310.328.3075
Costa Mesa: 714.438.1400
San Diego: 858.753.0006
Hawaii: 800.688.3234

1.800.688.3234|www.goengineer.com