

NI Volume License Manager

The NI Volume License Manager helps you manage and administer your National Instruments software licenses. You must contact your National Instruments representative to obtain a valid license file before using the NI Volume License Manager. Please visit ni.com/license for additional information regarding license management.



Tip Place your cursor over any **highlighted** NI Volume License Manager term to view a definition. Headings preceded by  can be expanded and collapsed.



Note The NI Volume License Manager runs only on Windows XP/2000/NT-based computers.



Caution If you install onto this computer other NI software that uses licensing, it will not launch until you add permission in the NI VLM for this computer. The software must appear in your agreement in order to use it on this computer. If you need further assistance, contact [technical support](#).

What do you want to learn about?

🔗 NI Volume License Manager Overview

License administration is the process of controlling access to products based on an explicit **license** agreement. Certain National Instruments software products require license management. This requirement is fulfilled by a volume license agreement license file.

You must acquire a volume license agreement license file before you can administer software licenses from a central server. In order to obtain this license file, you must provide to your National Instruments sales representative information such as the **computer ID** of your license server. *National Instruments does not use this information for any other purpose.* You can find the National Instruments privacy policy regarding your personal information at ni.com/license/privacy. For more information about your agreement license file, refer to [Getting Started](#).

You can use the NI Volume License Manager to perform the following tasks:

- ❏ [Install license files](#)
- ❏ [Set agreement policies](#)
- ❏ [Prepare software for network installation](#)
- ❏ [Manage the License Server](#)
- ❏ [Manage computers and permissions](#)
- ❏ [Renew expired license agreements](#)

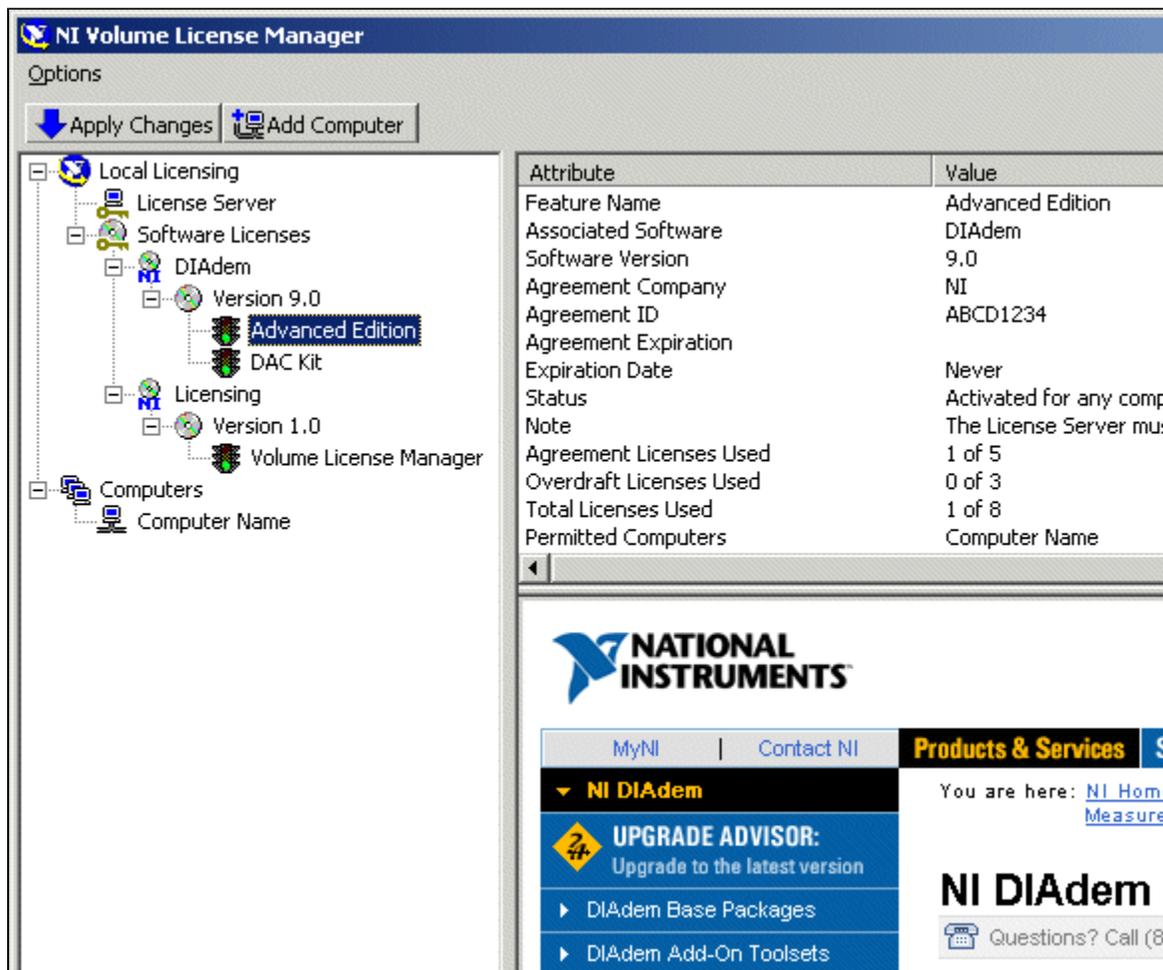
✦ Important Terms and Concepts

Terms and concepts you should know before you begin using the NI Volume License Manager

- ✦ A **computer/computer node** is one client computer using National Instruments products.
- ✦ A **license** gives users the legal right to use National Instruments products under the terms of a license agreement. Through the NI Volume License Manager, you can assign permissions to use this license on different computers.
- ✦ A **counted license** is a type of license that limits the number of computers that can be granted permission to use a particular product. All NI agreements are comprised of one or more counted licenses.
- ✦ A **disconnected license** lets a client computer use a product and consume a license while not attached to the network. You can generate disconnected licenses for clients not on the network.
- ✦ A **computer name** can be either the name of your server or the name of a user's computer. **Computer names are case sensitive.** You send your server computer name, along with your computer ID and your agreement ID to NI to obtain your license file. You add your users' computer names to the NI Volume License Manager to grant software access.
- ✦ A **home license** is similar to a disconnected license, but it does not consume a license on the server and is intended for home use only, according to the terms of your license agreement with National Instruments. You can generate home licenses for your users.
- ✦ A **License Server** is a computer that issues counted licenses for National Instruments products on a given network. These licenses require the license server to be active in order to use the corresponding product.
- ✦ A **License File** is a file that contains licenses, or electronic permissions, for all products in your specific agreement. You acquire a license file by contacting your National Instruments representative. The license file expires when your agreement expires. A license file also is a file you can generate for a user that contains the permissions needed for a computer using a disconnected or home license.
- ✦ A **computer ID** is a 16-digit value that uniquely identifies your computer. National Instruments uses your server's computer ID in the process of creating your volume license agreement license file to ensure it cannot be served from any other computer. You can find your server's computer ID by selecting the **Options»Display Computer ID** menu item from the NI Volume License Manager. The NI Volume License Manager needs your users' computer IDs to enable disconnected and home licenses. Users can find their computer ID by clicking the **Display Computer ID** button in the National Instruments License Manager utility, which they can find in the **Start»Programs»National Instruments** menu on their own computers.
- ✦ A **agreement ID** is a unique value that National Instruments uses, in conjunction with your computer ID, to create a license file. You can find your agreement ID in your agreement.
- ✦ An **overdraft** is an agreement preference that enables you to allow more computer-based permissions than the agreement allows. Refer to your license agreement for specific purchasing requirements and overdraft license options. You can allow an overdraft of up to two times the number of licenses purchased with the agreement. The overdraft setting preference, along with the assignment of permissions beyond agreement limits, is noted in the report log that you send to National Instruments at the end of the agreement period. To set overdrafts, select the **Options»Preferences** menu item and select the **Policies** tab. Select the **Allow Overdraft** checkbox.
- ✦ **Pay-as-you-go** is an agreement preference that reminds you to update your agreement every time a permission is set that takes advantage of overdraft. This preference is relevant only when you use the overdraft option. You should use this option when you want to purchase additional NI product licenses as you need them. To enable pay-as-you-go, select the **Options»Preferences** menu item and select the **Policies** tab. Turn on the overdraft option and select the **Enable Pay-As-You-Go** checkbox. If you do not select Pay-as-you-go, you will be required to pay for any additionally used licenses at the end of your agreement period.
- ✦ **Permissions** enable a computer to check out licenses from the license server. Permission may not be available if you have already allocated the maximum number of permissions for a given license. To grant permission for an existing computer, expand Computers, right-click on a computer name, and select **Properties**. To grant or remove permissions for a new computer, click **Add Computer**, fill in the Computer Name and other information as appropriate. Select the **Permissions** tab and select the NI software to which you want this computer to have access. After you change permissions, you must click **Apply Changes** for the changes to take effect.
- ✦ The **activity log** keeps a record of all administrator activity. To obtain your activity log, select the **Options»Save Activity Log** menu item. Send this log to National Instruments when your current agreement is expiring, when your user list has changed, when you have added users under the pay-as-you-go option, or when you plan to move the NI Volume License Manager to another computer. National Instruments then uses this information to help determine appropriate agreement fees for renewal.
- ✦ **Preparing your software for network installation** is a process where a standard NI software installer is transformed into an installer suited for installation by your users. Use the **Create Network Installer** wizard (**Options»Create Network Installer**) to copy your National Instrument application's installer to a local or shared network drive and make the appropriate changes to the installer. This operation modifies the installer to direct the application to your license server for the checkout of agreement licenses. It also adds your contact information to the application. You can then distribute the modified installer within your organization.
- ✦ The **NI Volume License Manager** is a utility you can use to manage various tasks associated with centralized license management.

The NI Volume License Manager Environment

Move your mouse over the following example to learn about the NI Volume License Manager environment.



NI Volume License Manager Tree

The left pane contains the NI Volume License Manager tree, which displays all licenses in your agreement. It also displays the current status of the License Server and the computers using licenses. The right pane contains context-sensitive details of the item you have selected in the NI Volume License Manager tree. The following table provides a description of each type of item that could appear in the tree.

Icon	Tree Item	Description	Right Pane Contents
	Local Licensing	Top-level tree item	Main help
	License Server	An active License Server	Displays the name and server status. Right-click to start or stop the license server.
	License Server	An inactive License Server	Displays the name and server status
	Software Licenses	Enumerates all of the software licenses on the system	A general description of software licenses
	<i>productName</i>	Specific product you are licensed to use	If Web help is enabled, the NI Product Activation and Licensing Web page.
	Version <i>xx.yy.zz</i>	Specifies the product version	If Web help is enabled, the NI Product Activation and Licensing Web page.
	<i>featureName</i>	Specific features within the product you are licensed to use	Specific information about the product including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> feature name

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • associated software • associated software version • agreement company • agreement ID • agreement expiration • expiration date • status • agreement licenses used • licensed features <p>You can right-click on a feature to assign and remove permissions for that feature.</p>
	message	Informational message	Extended description of the message
	Computers	The set of computers managed by the NI Volume License Manager	Displays a list of computers managed by the NI Volume License Manager. Right-click on Computers to add computers that you want to manage using the NI Volume License Manager. You can also click the Add Computer button to add computers.
	<i>computerName</i>	Specific users' computers under Computers	Displays each computer's owner, the owner's email address, groups, licenses granted, and disconnected licenses. Right-click on a computer to access its properties and create home or disconnected licenses.
	<i>computerName</i>	Disconnected computers under Computers	Indicates the computer is using a disconnected license. Right-click on the computer name to reconnect the computer to the NI Volume License Manager.

Toolbar Buttons

The toolbar buttons perform the functions shown in the following table:

Icon	Name	Description
	Add Computer	Adds computers to the NI Volume License Manager's list of computers to manage.
	Apply Changes	Synchronizes the license server with any changes that have been made to any computers or preferences. The button is enabled when there are changes that need to be synchronized to the server. You must synchronize all changes to the server before they take effect.

Options Menu

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

Option	Description																
Install License File	Installs a new license on the system and refreshes the NI Volume License Manager to reflect the change. You must use this method to install any new license file.																
License Server	<p>Starts and stops the license server. A running license server is required to support your agreement licenses. You can select the following options:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="355 415 1466 667"> <tr> <td data-bbox="363 415 428 531">  </td> <td data-bbox="428 415 1466 531"> Start Starts the license server if it is not already active. Note This is equivalent to selecting Start Server from the License Server tree item context menu. </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="363 541 428 657">  </td> <td data-bbox="428 541 1466 657"> Stop Stops the license server if it is active. Note This is equivalent to selecting Stop Server from the License Server tree item context menu. </td> </tr> </table> <p> Note License Server operations and counted licenses are supported only in Windows XP/2000/NT.</p>		Start Starts the license server if it is not already active. Note This is equivalent to selecting Start Server from the License Server tree item context menu.		Stop Stops the license server if it is active. Note This is equivalent to selecting Stop Server from the License Server tree item context menu.												
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Save Activity Log	The activity log keeps a record of all administrator activity. You can obtain your activity log by selecting the Options»Save Activity Log menu item. You send this log to National Instruments when your current agreement is expiring, when your user list has changed, when you have added users under the pay-as-you-go option, or when you plan to move the NI Volume License Manager to another computer. National Instruments then uses this information to help determine appropriate agreement fees for renewal.																
Import	Imports an XML-based file that contains the computer name and computer ID. You can find a sample of the XML code in Managing Computers and Permissions . You can customize the XML by copying the sample into a text editor.																
Create Network Installer	A wizard that helps you transform a standard NI software installer into an installer suited for installation by your users. Use the wizard to copy your National Instruments application's installer to a local or shared network drive and make the appropriate changes to the installer. This operation modifies the installer to direct the application to your license server. It also adds your contact information to the application. You can then distribute the modified installer within your organization.																
Refresh	<p>Refreshes the NI Volume License Manager user interface to accurately reflect license and server states.</p> <p> Note This command does not apply changes. If you make changes to the NI Volume License Manager configuration, click the Apply Changes button in the toolbar so that the changes take effect.</p>																
Preferences	<p>Helps you configure various options and policies. You can set the following options:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="355 1350 1466 1938"> <tr> <td data-bbox="363 1350 542 1612">General</td> <td data-bbox="542 1350 1466 1612"> <p>Sets Web help and start-up preferences. You can set the following options:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="550 1392 1466 1612"> <tr> <td data-bbox="558 1392 850 1539">Show Web Help</td> <td data-bbox="850 1392 1466 1539"> <p>Shows or hides product Web-based information from ni.com.</p> <p> Note Internet Explorer 5.0 or higher is required to view Web help.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="558 1549 850 1612">Start License Server on System Start</td> <td data-bbox="850 1549 1466 1612"> <p>Check this box to start the license server each time you restart your machine.</p> </td> </tr> </table> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="363 1623 542 1654">Administrator</td> <td data-bbox="542 1623 1466 1654">Sets and displays the name, phone number, and email address of the administrator.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="363 1665 542 1938">Policies</td> <td data-bbox="542 1665 1466 1938"> <p>Lets you configure licensing policies. You can select the following options:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="550 1707 1466 1938"> <tr> <td data-bbox="558 1707 753 1791">Allow Overdraft</td> <td data-bbox="753 1707 1466 1791"> <p>Enables and sets your overdraft limit. You can set anywhere from 0-100% more licenses for overdraft. This setting applies to all products in your license file.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="558 1801 753 1885">Enable Pay-As-You-Go</td> <td data-bbox="753 1801 1466 1885"> <p>Check this box if you want to be reminded when you have granted a new overdraft license, so that you can update your agreement with National Instruments.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="558 1896 753 1938">Include Owner</td> <td data-bbox="753 1896 1466 1938"> <p>Sends owner information with the activity log. This setting is</p> </td> </tr> </table> </td> </tr> </table>	General	<p>Sets Web help and start-up preferences. You can set the following options:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="550 1392 1466 1612"> <tr> <td data-bbox="558 1392 850 1539">Show Web Help</td> <td data-bbox="850 1392 1466 1539"> <p>Shows or hides product Web-based information from ni.com.</p> <p> Note Internet Explorer 5.0 or higher is required to view Web help.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="558 1549 850 1612">Start License Server on System Start</td> <td data-bbox="850 1549 1466 1612"> <p>Check this box to start the license server each time you restart your machine.</p> </td> </tr> </table>	Show Web Help	<p>Shows or hides product Web-based information from ni.com.</p> <p> Note Internet Explorer 5.0 or higher is required to view Web help.</p>	Start License Server on System Start	<p>Check this box to start the license server each time you restart your machine.</p>	Administrator	Sets and displays the name, phone number, and email address of the administrator.	Policies	<p>Lets you configure licensing policies. You can select the following options:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="550 1707 1466 1938"> <tr> <td data-bbox="558 1707 753 1791">Allow Overdraft</td> <td data-bbox="753 1707 1466 1791"> <p>Enables and sets your overdraft limit. You can set anywhere from 0-100% more licenses for overdraft. This setting applies to all products in your license file.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="558 1801 753 1885">Enable Pay-As-You-Go</td> <td data-bbox="753 1801 1466 1885"> <p>Check this box if you want to be reminded when you have granted a new overdraft license, so that you can update your agreement with National Instruments.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="558 1896 753 1938">Include Owner</td> <td data-bbox="753 1896 1466 1938"> <p>Sends owner information with the activity log. This setting is</p> </td> </tr> </table>	Allow Overdraft	<p>Enables and sets your overdraft limit. You can set anywhere from 0-100% more licenses for overdraft. This setting applies to all products in your license file.</p>	Enable Pay-As-You-Go	<p>Check this box if you want to be reminded when you have granted a new overdraft license, so that you can update your agreement with National Instruments.</p>	Include Owner	<p>Sends owner information with the activity log. This setting is</p>
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Include Owner	<p>Sends owner information with the activity log. This setting is</p>																

		<p>Information in Activity Log</p>	<p>turned on by default.</p>
		<p>Enable Debug Log</p>	<p>Turns on a debug log. The log tracks all license server activity. By default, this log is turned off, because it can grow as much as 1 MB per day, depending on license usage. You can find the debug log (lmgrd.log) in the National Instruments\Volume License Manager\ directory.</p>
		<p>For more information on policies, refer to Setting Agreement Policies.</p> <p> Note Policy preferences apply to all products in your agreement.</p>	
<p>Exit</p>	<p>Exits the NI Volume License Manager.</p>		

Getting Started

To start using the NI Volume License Manager, perform the following general steps:

1. Send your computer ID and agreement ID to your local National Instruments agreements representative at agreements@ni.com to obtain your agreement license file.

You must send your computer ID and agreement ID to National Instruments to create an agreement license file that can be managed only from the computer from which the computer ID was generated. Using your computer ID as a key ensures that your agreement license file cannot be copied and used by anyone else. To find your computer ID, select the **Options»Computer ID** menu item. The computer ID is based upon the MAC address of your server's network device. Make sure your network hardware is installed before determining your computer ID.

2. [Install](#) the volume license agreement license file onto the server.

Once NI has sent you the volume license agreement license file, select the **Options»Install License File** menu item. You can also drag and drop the license file onto the NI Volume License Manager user interface.

3. [Set](#) agreement preferences.

You can control how you want to administer the terms of the agreement using the **Options»Preferences** menu item. You should set these [preferences](#) after you receive the volume license agreement license file. Refer to your license agreement for details on this agreement feature.

4. [Prepare your software](#) for network installation.

Transform your standard NI software installers into installers suitable for installation by your users. This operation modifies the installer to direct the application to your license server. It also sets up the application with your contact information. Use the **Create Network Installer** wizard (**Options»Create Network Installer**) to copy your National Instruments application's installer to a local or shared network drive and make the appropriate changes to the installer. You can then distribute the modified installer within your organization either by using a shared network drive or burning this new product installer image to a CD.

5. [Add computers](#) and assign permissions.

Permissions enable a computer to check out licenses from the license server. Permission may not be available if you have already allocated the maximum number of permissions for a given license. To modify or grant permissions for an existing computer or create a disconnected or home license, expand Computers, right-click on a computer name, and select **Properties**. Select the **Permissions** tab and set the appropriate permissions. To grant permissions for a new computer, click **Add Computer**, fill in the Computer Name and other information as appropriate. **Computer names are case sensitive**. You must click **Apply Changes** before permissions take effect.

To create a disconnected or home license, expand Computers, right-click on a computer name and select either **Disconnect** or **Create Home License for Owner**. You must have the user's computer ID in order to create either a disconnected or home license to send to the user. A disconnected or home license allows users to disconnect from the network or work from home and use their NI software.

Installing a License File

You must install a new license file on your system every new agreement period or pay-as-you-go renewal. The two methods for installing a license file appear below.

- Select **Options»Install License File** from the menu (or press **<F8>**) and select the license file to install.
- Select the license file in your Windows file browser and drag it anywhere onto the NI Volume License Manager.

The NI Volume License Manager updates to reflect the addition of the new license file.

Setting Agreement Policies

The Policies section affects how you interact with your agreement and your obligations to NI. Depending on your agreement with National Instruments, you can follow the agreement strictly and use only those licenses purchased or you can allow users to install licenses as needed and either pay as you go or pay for the licenses at a later date.

The NI Volume License Manager records into a log file all instances of policy and permissions changes, including overdrafts. You send this log file to National Instruments at the end of your agreement period. National Instruments then uses the information in this file to determine how much, if anything, is owed on the extra licenses and maintenance for the coming agreement period and returns to you a new license file based on whether you renewed the agreement.

Include owner information in activity log records each user's name along with which licenses are checked out. The users then become qualified to receive technical support services included with your volume license agreement.

An **overdraft** is an agreement preference that enables you to allow more computer-based permissions than the agreement specifies. Refer to your license agreement for specific purchasing requirements and overdraft licenses options.

You can allow an overdraft of up to two times the number of licenses purchased with the agreement. The overdraft setting preference, along with the assignment of permissions beyond agreement limits, is noted in the report log that you send to National Instruments at the end of the agreement period. To set overdrafts, select the **Options»Preferences** menu item and select the **Policies** tab. Select the **Allow Overdraft** checkbox. This setting applies to all products in your license file.

Pay-as-you-go reminds you to update your agreement every time a permission is set that takes advantage of overdraft. This preference is relevant only when you use the overdraft option. You should use this option when you want to purchase additional NI product licenses as you need them. To enable pay-as-you-go, select the **Options»Preferences** menu item and select the **Policies** tab. Enable overdrafts and select the **Enable Pay-As-You-Go** checkbox. You do not need to select pay-as-you-go in order to enable overdrafts. If you do not select Pay-as-you-go, you will be required to pay for additional licenses at the end of your agreement period.

For more information on renewing agreements, refer to [Renewing Expired Agreements](#).

Preparing Software for Network Installation

Enabling software for network installation lets you enable a particular software product for licensed network use within your organization. You must deliver National Instruments software using this method. Installing National Instruments software directly from the software CD does not properly configure an end user's machine to use licenses from a central server. Preparing your software for network installation adds installer steps to point client computers to the NI Volume License Manager server.

If you have not already entered your name and contact information in the Administration tab in the **Options»Properties** menu selection, the wizard prompts you for the information and inserts it into the software. This information is displayed to the user during installation. If users encounter any licensing errors, they can use this information to contact the appropriate person.

To start the wizard, select the **Options»Create Network Installer** menu item. The wizard guides you in copying your CD to a disk drive and must have write access to this drive to modify the installer to support network licensing. After the wizard runs, you can copy the image back to a CD for internal distribution or leave it on the networked drive.

✚ Managing the License Server

Use the License Server to manage **counted licenses**. The License Server consists of two processes, `lmgrd` and `nilm`. These processes run as a service.

In the NI Volume License Manager, the License Server item is denoted by  if it is active and by  if it is inactive. You can perform the following tasks:

- ✚ To start an inactive server, right-click **License Server** entry in the NI Volume License Manager tree and select **Start Server** from the menu that appears.
- ✚ To stop an active server, select **Stop Server**.

Apply Changes will also ensure your server is running.

You can also find these operations on the **Options** menu.

Using the NI Volume License Manager, you can also perform administrative tasks such as:

✚ Viewing alerts

Alerts notify you of the following events:

- ✚ The expiration of an agreement
- ✚ The addition of an overdrafted user added in pay-as-you-go mode

Alerts occur only on the administrator's computer while the NI Volume License Manager is running.

✚ Recording debug logs

The debug log collects information on every license transaction (license check-in or check-out) that is not logged in the activity log. You can use the information in the debug log to troubleshoot user license check-out problems. Turn on this feature only if you have ample hard drive space, because it can grow at a rate of up to 1 MB per day. You must click **Apply Changes** before this feature will work.

For more information on agreement expiration and renewal, refer to [Renewing Expired Agreements](#).

Moving to Another Server

Perform the following steps if you need to move the NI Volume License Server to another computer:

1. Install the NI Volume License Manager software onto your new server.
2. Find your new server's computer ID by selecting the **Options»Display Computer ID** menu item.
3. Save the activity log from your old server, following the directions in [Renewing Expired Agreements](#).
4. Send both your new computer ID and the activity log from the old server to your local National Instruments volume license agreements representative at agreements@ni.com. National Instruments uses your computer ID, the activity log, and your agreement ID to generate a new license file.
5. Once you receive your new license file from National Instruments, [install](#) it onto your new server.
6. Replace the activity log and the configuration file (`nivlm.cfg`) on the new server with copies of each from the old server. These files are located in the `National Instruments\Volume License Manager` directory.
7. Set your preferences on the new server (**Options»Preferences**).

Managing Computers and Permissions

Computers are displayed under the **Computers** node in the NI Volume License Manager tree. When you select a computer, the right pane displays the computer's properties, as follows:

- ✦ Computer Name
- ✦ Computer ID
- ✦ Owner
 - Name
 - Email
 - Phone
 - Department
 - Manager
 - Cost Center
 - Comments
- ✦ Licenses granted to that computer

Licenses and the icons for computers that have a disconnected license file are marked with the  icon.

Use the NI Volume License Manager to perform the following functions:

- ✦ To add a new computer, right-click on Computers and select **Add Computer**.



Note Computer names are case sensitive.

- ✦ To import computer information into the NI Volume License Manager, perform the following steps:

- ✦ Select the **Options»Import** menu item.

You can find sample XML and schema files in the `Volume License Manager` directory. The import file must conform to the XML schema file (`import.xsd`) in the `Volume License Manager` directory. A sample XML file, `sample.xml`, is in the same directory.

The root `<import>` element can have any number of `<computer>` elements. `<name>` represents the hostname, IP address, or fully qualified DNS name of the computer that is being added. `<computerId>` is optional, but if it is present, it must either be empty or hold a valid XXXX-XXXX-XXXX-XXXX computer ID. All of the elements under `<owner>` are optional and describe the owner of the computer.

If you modified the sample XML file and want a clean copy, expand the following section and copy and paste it into a new text file:

Sample XML File

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<import xmlns="http://www.ni.com/license" version="1.0">
  <computer>
    <name>sample</name>
    <computerId></computerId>
    <owner>
      <name></name>
      <phone></phone>
      <email></email>
      <department></department>
      <manager></manager>
      <costCenter></costCenter>
      <comment></comment>
    </owner>
  </computer>
</import>
```

- ✦ To copy a computer, right-click on the computer and select **Duplicate**.
- ✦ To delete a computer, right-click on the computer and select **Delete**.
- ✦ To create a disconnected license, right-click on a computer and select **Disconnect**. You can specify whether the license expires after a certain period of time or remains in effect indefinitely. Disconnected licenses are useful for computers unattached to the network, such as laptops, those behind certain firewalls or those without network cards. Without a disconnected license, users of these computers are not able to use their NI software.



Note You must have the computer ID set in the computer's properties in order to create a disconnected license. A user can find the computer ID by launching the National Instruments License Manager (**Start»Programs»National Instruments»NI License Manager**) and

clicking **Display Computer ID**.

- ✦ To reconnect a disconnected computer, right-click on the computer name and select **Reconnect**.



Note You cannot delete or edit permissions of a computer while it is disconnected. You must first reconnect the computer.

- ✦ To create a home-use license for a user, right-click on the computer name and select **Create Home License for Owner**. You must have the computer ID of the user's home computer in order to create a home-use license. The user must perform the following steps to obtain the home computer ID:
 - ✦ Install the National Instruments software they want to use onto their home machine.
 - ✦ Launch the National Instruments License Manager (**Start»Programs»National Instruments»NI License Manager**) and click **Display Computer ID**.

The user can then contact you with the computer ID, which you use to create a home license. The user then installs this home license using the NI License Manager.

- ✦ To view a computer's properties, right-click on the computer and select **Properties**. You can view computer names and the licenses granted to each computer.
- ✦ To set license properties, perform the following steps:
 - ✦ Expand the Software Licenses entry in the NI Volume License Manager tree.
 - ✦ Right-click on the license you want to manage and select **Properties**. The License Properties dialog box displays the computers currently using a license. You can grant a license by checking the computer name or revoke a license by unchecking the computer name. You can also select and edit multiple computers. Computers that have been granted a disconnected license appear checked and grayed out.



Note You can update your user list with National Instruments at any time after changing owner properties by sending your activity log to agreements@ni.com. Follow the instructions in [Renewing Expired Agreements](#) to obtain your activity log.

You can also use the NI Volume License Manager as a tool to record the use of NI software that does not have license management integrated into the product.

✦ Renewing Expired Agreements

The NI Volume License Manager records in an activity log file all instances of policy and permissions changes, including overdrafts. To generate this log, use the **Options»Save Activity Log** menu item. You send this log to National Instruments when your current agreement is expiring, when your user list has changed, when you have added users under the pay-as-you-go option, when you plan to move the NI Volume License Manager to another computer, or other agreement changes.

Please send your activity log to agreements@ni.com. In your email, indicate your reason for sending the log. Typical reasons include:

1. My current agreement is expiring.
2. My user list has changed.
3. I have added users under the Pay-as-you-go option.
4. I plan to move the NI Volume License Manager to another server.

National Instruments then uses this information to help determine appropriate agreement fees for renewal and returns to you a new license file that reflects any changes in the quantity of licenses you own. When you receive the new agreement, install it following the directions in [Installing a License File](#).

The NI Volume License Manager alerts you when your agreement is about to expire and for a certain time afterward. These alerts notify you of the following events:

- ✦ The expiration of an agreement, as follows:
 - ✦ 60 and 30 days before the agreement expires
 - ✦ Every time the NI Volume License Manager launches in the seven-day period before an agreement expires
 - ✦ The day of agreement expiration
 - ✦ 15 and 30 days after the agreement expires
 - ✦ Every day during the 10 days preceding the 60th day of expiration
 - ✦ After 60 days past expiration, **your software stops working**. NI generates a new license file as soon as you return the activity log.

At any time during the 60 days before the agreement expires or after the agreement expires, you can send your activity log to you local National Instruments agreements representative to renew your software agreement.
- ✦ Any time you add an overdrafted user in pay-as-you-go mode

Important Information and Technical Support Resources

[Trademarks](#)

[Copyright](#)

[Warranty](#)

[Warning](#)

[Technical Support and Professional Services](#)

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 - **Assisted Support Options**—[Contact NI engineers](#) and other measurement and automation professionals by visiting ni.com/support. Our online system helps you define your question and connects you to the experts by phone, discussion forum, or email.
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