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Flexible IronCAD Licensing Options

This bulletin is intended to explain the various types of software licensing available for IronCAD solutions.

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Flexible Licensing Options

Software licensing can be complicated these days. We will never force our customers into a license that doesn't fit their goals. We have the license model that best fits your needs and objectives.

Perpetual

Perpetual software licenses are a license that authorizes an individual or organization the right to use the program indefinitely at the release (version) purchased. With IronCAD's perpetual software licensing, a customer pays a single upfront fee for the software license. (1)

Concurrent

Concurrent software licenses (often referred to as Floating licenses) are designed for larger organizations who require multiple licenses and have a diverse mixture of CAD users. This allows a license(s) to be shared across a server network. It saves the expense of purchasing a perpetual license for every CAD user. These licenses can be managed either through software or hardware. (2)

Mobile

Mobile software licenses allow a user to transport the license to any location or computer with the software installed via a USB dongle. So for example, an organization may have an IronCAD solution installed on infinite amount of computers within the company, but only the computer with the dongle plugged will allow the software to be used. This is ideal of the license needs to be transported from engineering to manufacturing, or sales.

Term

Term software licenses allow a user or organization to rent the software for a specific time limit. The default period of time is 12 months. After 12 months if the user does not renew for another term period the software ceases to operate. These license types are ideal for organizations that require the software for a short period for short-term free lance help or for budget conscious individual. (3)

Academic

Academic software licenses are provided to students and faculty who are actively enrolled in an educational institution. Thes licenses are FREE to use for 12 months and can be renewed for free as long as still have active enrollment in institution.

Educational

Educational software licenses are provided to educational institutions for free and are installed a server to support multiple users in a classroom environment. These licenses do require the educational institution to purchase an annual Armor Advantage support plan to ensure the latest versions and continued technical support.

NOTES:
(1) Support plans are not included, but can be purchased separately if desired.
(2) Requires Network License Manager (NLM)software which cab be either software or hardware controlled.
(3) All term licenses have included Armor Advantage support plan for term period. Additionaly there are term options to include desired third party add-ons.

IronCAD

Perpetual vs. Subscription (SaaS) Licenses

Understanding how software licensing can impact your business.

When selecting your next design system, it is crucial to understand its cost of ownership and how the cost and features are tightly knitted together. However, many overlook how their CAD software licensing model also plays a role in this. Understanding how software licensing impacts your cost of ownership and even more critically how it impacts your overall business procedures is vital to your success.

Today, there is a trend from most CAD companies to provide their solutions via "SaaS" or "Software as a Service". It's increasingly difficult to find solutions that provide flexible licensing options. Our goal is to make sure you fully understand all the aspects of CAD software licensing and how it impacts business model.

▶ ## What is a Perpetual license?

A perpetual license is the 'traditional' model used to purchase software. You pay for your software license up-front and have the right to use it indefinitely. On top of the license fee, you will have the option to pay for one-off implementation services and a support contract, which is renewed annually.

▶ ## What is a SaaS or Subscription-based license?

With a subscription licensing model you pay a per user fee, either monthly or annually, which allows you to use the software during the subscription term. The key difference being you don't own the software, instead you lease it. The subscription payment includes your software licenses, access to support services and new versions of the software as they are released. Typically, subscription-based CAD software is cloud-based.

PROS	CONS

Perpetual

- Less cost of ownership over time
- Licenses are portable.
- Will operate indefinitely
- No late payment reprisals
- Physical possession of CAD data

SaaS

- Lower initial cost
- Cloud-based allows transient access
- Stays current with updates
- Includes technical support

Perpetual

- Technical support/upgrades separate purchase
- Updates installed by end user*

SaaS

- Higher cost of ownership over time.
- Relies on internet connection and speed.
- Miss monthly fee, it ceases to operate.
- Fees can change at any time.
- CAD data is stored on the cloud and not in your physical possession. This can put your intellectual property at risk not to mention limit your access to your data if needed.

*This is not necessarily a bad thing, however IronCAD has a "Live Update" utility that notifies you of updates and you can install with a click of a button.

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Magnacad, LLC
www.magnacad.com
(631)974.0677
sales@magnacad.com

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