



Licensing – Hardware or Software License?

APPLICATIONS NOTE

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Description: Guide to help decide when to use a hardware or a software key

OS Requirement: Win 2000 Pro/Server, XP Pro, Server 2003

General Requirement: Basic knowledge of GENESIS32.

Introduction

GENESIS32 version 9.x supports software license keys as well as hardware keys (dongle). A hardware key is placed on the computer's printer (LPT) port or USB port and the software key is hidden in files on your computer's hard disk. Customers can choose between purchasing a software license or a hardware license. This document describes advantages and disadvantages of the two license types in hopes that it will help you to decide which to purchase.

Software License Advantages

The software license has the following advantages over a hardware key:

- The software license can be quickly obtained from the ICONICS website. The hardware key has to be programmed first and then shipped from ICONICS Inc. to the end-user.
- The software license is not easily stolen from the PC. The hardware key is often visible on the back of the PC and may be easier to take.
- The software license does not require a parallel or USB port and will never cause a conflict with hardware devices connected those ports (such as printers, etc.).
- The software license does not cost extra. The hardware key can be purchase for an extra fee.

Hardware Key Advantages

The hardware key has the following advantages over a software license:

- The hardware key is not as vulnerable as a software key. A software license will be lost in the case of a hard disk crash or in the case someone tampers with the license files.
- The hardware key can be quickly plugged into another computer. The software license requires you to transfer the license through a floppy or the ICONICS web site.

Application Examples

The examples below demonstrate situations where you need to choose between a hardware key and a software key

Scenario 1:

GENESIS32 will be used on the plant floor as the operator interface. In the near future the GENESIS32 computer(s) need to be connected to the plants' Intranet in order to provide process information to the manager's desk using GENESIS32 Browsers technology. We do not know yet how many managers would like to have an eye on the process. What type of licensing will suit best?

Recommendation:

Software licensing will suit this situation best. The reason for this choice is that the license will need to be upgraded in the near future. GENESIS32 Browser licenses will need to be added to the existing GENESIS32 license and the license may need to be upgraded to a higher point count. Upgrading the license through the ICONICS web site will be the quickest and most flexible and cost efficient way.

Scenario 2:

GENESIS32 will be used on the plant floor as the operator interface for a critical process. When the GENESIS32 computer breaks down for whatever reason, the regulations require a new PC to be on-line and running within minutes. What type of licensing will suit best?

Recommendation:

Hardware licensing will suit best in this scenario. The reason for this choice is that the hardware key can be quickly swapped from one to the other computer. A software license may work if a backup software license can be purchased.