AiTS Hardware Keys (Dongles)

General

Hardware keys, or dongles as they are more popularly known, are the protection system we now use to prevent the illegal copying or use of AiTS software. The licensed programs will only work where one of our dongles has been connected, either physically to that machine or over a network.

We currently supply two types of dongle. A parallel port version and a USB version. Both have effectively the same functionality, it is only your preference which decides which one to use. Both also use the same driver files, so installation is relatively simple.

Using a dongle conveys significant advantages to your use of our software. Your user and company names together with your licence number are stored on the dongle itself, along with the products you are entitled to use and the expiry date. This means that we can remove a lot of the protection on the programs, but instead rely on the dongle to provide security. For you this means you can install the software on any number of machines and simply move the dongle from machine to machine when you want to use another computer.

We have designed the dongle programs with ease of updating in mind. We can update your dongle remotely either to renew the expiry date or add new programs, using a code which you enter into the latest version of Licence Manager. Licence Manager looks and works much the same as in previous releases, but now talks directly to the dongle rather than the older software protection system.

Activation on first use

When you first use a supplied dongle, please note that it will have been supplied to you in an 'inactive' state. This means that until you contact us to obtain an activation code, it will not allow you to use any of the software.

To obtain an activation code, start Licence Manager and select the Update button. Note the code that the program generates and also your licence number. Contact us as shown at the end of this document and we will provide an activation code. Type this into the relevant space in Licence Manager update dialog exactly as given, press Okay and your dongle should be activated.

Exactly the same process needs to be followed whenever the dongle requires updating for whatever reason.

Please note that you should never attempt to guess an update code and enter this into Licence Manager. You would have to be extremely lucky to guess at a valid sequence of numbers and letters from the many billions of possibilities and you are only permitted a number of attempts before the dongle shuts down completely. If a dongle does shut down it will have to be returned to us. We reserve the right to levy a fee should this occur in addition to the normal costs of replacement.

Stand alone use

The majority of users are likely to operate our software on a stand alone machine, in other words a computer to which the dongle can be physically attached. This is the simplest type of installation to consider. Just install the AiTS software on your computer using the installation CD and select the option to install Local Drivers when prompted to choose by the installation program. The setup program will install all the necessary AiTS programs and then install the drivers for the dongle itself.

Re-boot the computer, if prompted to do so and attach the dongle. When the machine restarts the computer should detect the dongle and allow you to activate your dongle as described above.

Network use

Although each dongle is network aware, you are limited in use not only to the number of programs currently licensed to you, but also to the number of process licences held on the dongle itself. For non-network specific dongles this number is one, which means that is someone is using the licence, no-one else will be able to start any programs. If you want to operate over a network we can supply dongles which have sufficient process licences to enable access to all licensed programs concurrently.

Network installation is slightly more complicated to explain, even if in reality it is not much more difficult to implement. First and foremost you should decide which computer on your network is to be the nominated server machine. This chosen machine can be running any MS Windows 95 or above operating system and must be visible to the other (client) computers that will connect to it.

If you want to run AiTS programs on the server machine, you need to install the software to this computer as usual using the installation CD. Choose 'Network Drivers' when prompted by the setup program. You should select the 'Start Service on System Start' if this option is presented to you during installation. Re-boot if necessary, attach the dongle and you should then be able to activate the dongle as described earlier.

If you don't want to install anything other than the server drivers to the server computer, you can browse to the 'setup.exe' file in the DES folder on the CD. Launching this program only installs the DESNet server drivers and none of the AiTS software. Note however that you will not be able to activate the dongle from this machine, since Licence Manager will not be installed. You will have to activate the dongle over the network, or activate it on another machine.

On the client computers you should install the AiTS software and choose 'Local Drivers' when prompted during the setup process in exactly the same way as described in the Stand alone section above. Once installed however, you need then to 'point' the client computer to use the dongle attached to the server machine.

From Control Panel launch the DESKey icon (DES are the manufacturers of the dongles we use). Make sure the 'Enable DK2 Network Access' option is checked and then click the 'Networking' tab. You can then browse through the network to the server computer using the 'Add' button. You will also need to do this should you move the dongle to another computer for any reason.

Care of the dongle

The dongle is an item of electronic equipment and as such should be protected from moisture, extremes of heat and cold and stored securely when not in use. You should not attempt to dismantle it as you are highly likely to damage the internal electronic components.

Avoid placing a parallel port dongle on a parallel printer port which is connected to a backup device. In these circumstances a vast amount of information is likely to pass through the dongle which is likely to cause its failure. If there is no option but to use a parallel port for a backup device then please contact us to obtain a USB dongle instead.

Loss or damage

Please take care of the dongle and guard against damage, loss or theft. Although we will replace defective dongles free of charge, we will make a charge for dongles that have been lost. This cost will not be limited to the cost of a new dongle, but will also include the value of any unused licence(s) on that dongle. Dongles returned to us in a damaged state as a result of accident or mishap will be replaced for a fee, but the unused licence(s) reinstated at no additional cost.

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