

NI Volume License Agreement Startup Kit

This document provides steps to guide you to success with your National Instruments Volume License Agreement (VLA).

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Learn More About the NI Volume License Program

Table 1 provides a summary of NI Volume License Program benefits. For a complete list of VLA benefits, visit ni.com/services/vla.

Table 1. NI Volume License Program Benefits

Account Entitlements	Description	Additional Options
NI Volume License Manager (NI VLM)	NI VLM is a utility for software asset management of your NI software licenses.	Training Credits Onsite Courses
Single Purchase Order	You may use a single, annual purchase order for all NI software purchases, to renew software maintenance for all your licenses at the same time.	
End User Entitlements*	Description	Additional Options
Automatic Upgrades	Receive software upgrades automatically when new versions release.	Training Membership Software Certification
Technical Support	Reduce application development time with direct access to technical support from NI applications engineers. Visit ni.com/support to initiate technical support.	
On-Demand Training	On-demand training teaches features, application uses, and development best practices found in the Services Resource Center at ni.com/src .	
User Groups	A user group is a core group of individuals that stays informed about products and technologies to support and assist each other in application development.	
* All users receive the entitlements and benefits of the Standard Service Program (SSP).		

Step 1. Verify Program Requirements

- Select a software administrator to oversee and administer NI software licenses. NI provides the NI software media, tools, and updates to the administrator. Email agreements@ni.com with the administrator's name.

- Select a license management tool.
Decide whether to use NI Volume License Manager, Acresto FLEXnet (formerly owned by Macrovision), or another approved license manager to administer your software licenses.

Step 2. Set Up Your New VLA

- Learn about VLA benefits.
Refer to Table 1 to learn about the benefits you receive as a part of a Volume License Agreement.
- Learn about NI software.
NI has different types of software, such as application development software, add-in modules, toolkits, device drivers, and bundled software. To learn more about the different types of software that can be on your VLA, visit ni.com/info and enter the info code `rdvlaswt`.
- Determine your license models.
Refer to Table 2 for information about license models. You can use a combination of the licenses to best suit your needs and you can change the license models throughout the year on a VLA. For more information, visit ni.com/info and enter `exs6f3`.

Table 2. NI VLA License Models

License Models	Description
Name-User	A license model attached to a single end user, who can install the software on up to three work computers while using the software on one computer at a time. This is the most common model of license.
Computer-Based	A license model attached to a single computer with unlimited users. This license model is used typically for manufacturing floors or other areas where people share computers.
Concurrent	<p>A license model where software is installed on an unlimited number of computers, as long as X instances of the software are in use at a given time, where X equals the number of concurrent seats purchased. Concurrent licenses can be <i>managed</i> or <i>unmanaged</i>:</p> <p>Managed concurrent licenses restrict who can access the software according to permissions assigned in NI VLM.</p> <p>Unmanaged concurrent licenses are unrestricted and therefore do not have user or computer permissions in NI VLM.</p>

- Install your license management tool.
 - NI Volume License Manager**
Download NI VLM (visit ni.com/info and enter the info code `nivlmdownload`) or install the software from the NI VLM media. For more information on getting started with NI VLM, refer to *Getting Started with NI VLM* (from NI VLM, select the **Help»Getting Started** menu item).
 - Acresto FLEXnet**
If you want to use Acresto FLEXnet software instead of NI VLM, visit ni.com/info and enter the info code `rdv1fs` for more information.
- Email your NI VLM Computer Name and Computer ID to agreements@ni.com.
In your email, include a subject line of `New license file request, computer name and ID`, and the license model required for each product in your agreement. You can find the computer name and ID from NI VLM by selecting **Options»Display Computer Information**. The Agreements team will send you a volume license file that is specific to your computer ID and agreement in response to your email.

- Install your volume license file.
Once you receive your volume license file, install it in NI VLM using the **Options»Install License File** menu selection.
- Configure NI VLM.
Set your NI VLM preferences, create your Volume License Installers, and create disconnected and home license files. Refer to *Getting Started with NI VLM* (from NI VLM, select the **Help»Getting Started** menu item) for more details on configuring NI VLM. For more advanced installations, visit ni.com/vlp.
- Give VLA end users new software and connect them to NI VLM.
If the end user needs the new software, point them to the Volume License Installer for the correct NI application software product and the folder corresponding to the licenses they need. Ask them to run `setup.exe`. If they already have the software installed, they can run `vlmclient.exe` instead to avoid having to install again.

After the end user installs the software, accept or reject their permission requests in NI VLM, if you have not enabled automatic permission request handling. If the user is not connected to the network, create and distribute disconnected licenses. End users can install disconnected licenses using NI License Manager. Refer to *NI VLM Help* (from NI VLM, select the **Help»Contents** menu item) for more information about these steps.
- Send VLA end user names to agreements@ni.com for technical support.
To ensure VLA end users can access NI support engineers for technical support throughout the year, send your NI VLM Activity Compliance Log or a list of names and email addresses to agreements@ni.com.

Step 3. Know What to Expect Throughout the Year

New NI Software Releases

Most NI software releases two or four times per year. With each release, you should receive an email announcing the new version's features. You will also receive a new volume license file that includes the new version. Each time you receive a new license file, complete the following general steps:

- Install your NI volume license file.
- Create a new Volume License Installer for the new software and inform your end users about the upgrade. This new Volume License Installer provides end users the flexibility to use the new application software version or continue to use the previous version.
- Create and distribute new disconnected license files to all end users who have a disconnected license, so that they can use the updated software.

New NI Volume License Manager Releases

Whenever a new version of NI VLM releases, you should receive an email announcing the new version's features. If the email gives you additional steps to fully utilize the new features, implement those steps.

Expand End User Knowledge with User Groups and NI Training

Ensure competency within your organization by maintaining a core group of individuals informed about a product or technology who can support and assist each other in application development.

The Volume License Program groups your end users, facilitating community-building activities such as user groups and product training. As activities are scheduled, please help advertise them by emailing the end users. For more information, visit ni.com/visusernet and ni.com/training.

Adding License to Your VLA

NI VLM has two options for adding licenses throughout the year—Pay-As-You-Go and Overdraft. Pay-As-You-Go allows you to pay for your new licenses mid-year. Overdraft allows you to pay for your new licenses at the end of the year. Refer to the *Setting Policies* topic in *NI VLM Help* (from NI VLM, select the **Help»Contents** menu item) to learn more about these two options.

Step 4. Prepare For Your VLA Renewal

- You will receive a renewal reminder phone call or email from NI before your renewal date.
- Submit your Activity Compliance Log to `agreements@ni.com`.
Generate your Activity Compliance Log in NI VLM. Open NI VLM and select **Options»Save Activity Compliance Log**. Email the saved file to `agreements@ni.com` with the subject `Agreement Renewal`.
- Contact VLA end users.
Your VLA end users may need to be billed early to send in your renewal on time.
- Talk to your sales person about any major changes to the VLA.
Renewal is a good time to review your agreement and consider adding software or changing license types. If you want to make changes to your agreement, contact your salesperson. If you want to remove licenses from the VLA, you will be required to pay a fee.
- Receive a quote for the VLA renewal.
The VLA renewal quote will be valid until the specified renewal date. After the renewal date, the price of the renewal increases.
- Pay software maintenance before your renewal date.
Software maintenance is required for software within the VLA and is charged on an annual basis.

Contact National Instruments for Assistance

If you have questions about software maintenance, ordering, or licensing, or would like to confirm the products covered in your volume license, please contact National Instruments. For changes to your license file, email `agreements@ni.com` or contact NI in the U.S. at (800) 433-3488, or worldwide through your local branch. To purchase additional licenses or if you have questions on your VLA contract, contact your salesperson. For technical support using NI VLM, visit `ni.com/support`.

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