USB Local Hardware Key Licenses

Introduction

This document aims to explain how to install Tekla products when you have a **USB Local Hardware Key license**, how to activate a USB Local Hardware Key license correctly, and how to clone the activated license to another machine.

USB Local Hardware Key Licenses

There are different licensing methods available for Tekla A&D Products, such as Tekla Tedds, Tekla Structural Designer, Tekla Connection Designer, and Tekla Portal Frame Designer. The main licensing methods that are available are:

- **Local Computer Locked** – Local license tied to one specific machine
- **Server Locked** – License held on a network machine that multiple different machines can access and claim when available

Customers who have had our software for a longer period of time would have historically also had the option of **USB Local Hardware Key Locked Licenses**. These are no longer available for purchase, but they can still be used if they were purchased previously.

A USB Local Hardware Key license is where you have a USB key plugged into the machine that you want to use the software on. This was particularly useful for individuals who regularly switched between different machines in different locations, as they can just take the USB key with them. However, server licenses allow you to access the license from different machines too, and you don't need to remember the USB key to be able to use it. Server licenses are also much easier if you have multiple users and licenses, as PAK Codes only need activating once on the server machine.

Full and Upgrade Licenses

When activating any license, you are issued with a **PAK Code**. This is a 30 character code of letters and numbers, unique for each **company**, **product**, **version**, and **license type**. For new customers, these PAKs are issued around the time of purchase. For existing customers, PAK Codes are automatically sent out for the new releases to our main Delivery Contact for your company, shortly **before** the software release, so you can get it set up before the software is available.

If it is a new purchase, then the PAK Code will be for a **Full license**. This includes a number of separate license components, including the user count (i.e. how many people can access the software, mainly used for server licenses). Once activated, the software can be used.

When you install a later version of the software, you will require a **new PAK Code** for that version. However, as you have already activated the Full license previously, you don't need all of the same license components; just the ones that are version specific. Therefore, the PAK Code you're issued for all subsequent versions will be **Upgrade Licenses**.

If you happen to get a new machine, or have a machine that has never had the software installed and licensed on it, then to be able to use the software on that machine, you can't just activate the Upgrade PAK Code for that version. You **MUST** activate the original Full license **AND** the latest version Upgrade PAK Code.

Always keep a record of ALL of the PAK Codes issued to you.

Download

You can download all of our products from our Tekla Downloads website [here](#).

To access the download, just click the **Download** button for the product you need.
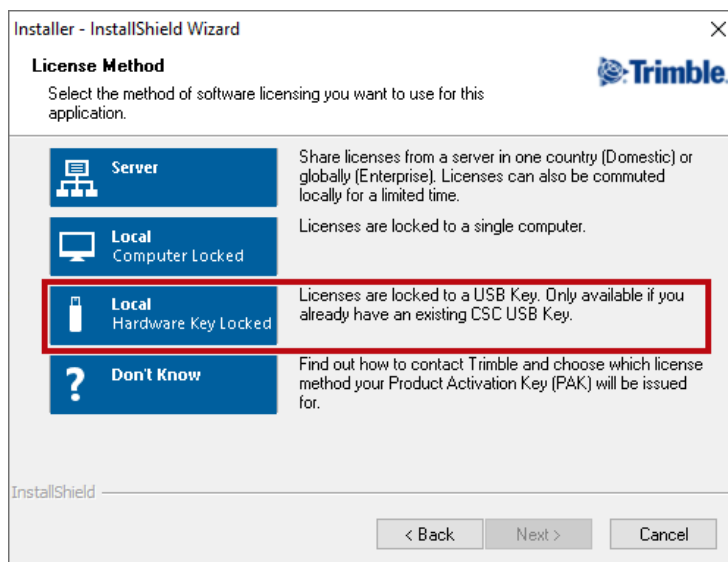
If you aren't already logged in to our website at this stage, you will be prompted to do so.

You should then click the **Setup guide and version download** button, which takes you through a guided process for downloading your software:

1. **Getting Ready** – This page provides pre-installation checks to help you ensure you have everything you need before starting the upgrade process.
2. **License Server** – This page is only relevant for people using **Server Locked Licenses**
3. **PAK Activation** – This page is also more relevant for people using **Server Locked Licenses**, but should act as a reminder to make sure you have your PAK Code BEFORE upgrading
4. **Install Application** – This page includes the application installation download link, as well as the **Release Notes** for that version. The download is identical, regardless of the type of license you have. The **installation** can be started by double clicking the downloaded file.
5. **Learn** – This page contains details on how to go about learning the product you're installing and where you can get assistance

Installation

The **installation** can be started by double-clicking on the file downloaded from the Downloads site. The installation process is essentially identical for all license types, except for the **License Method** page, where you're asked to choose which type of license you have. For USB Hardware Key Locked licenses, you **MUST** choose the **Local Hardware Key Locked** option, as highlighted below.
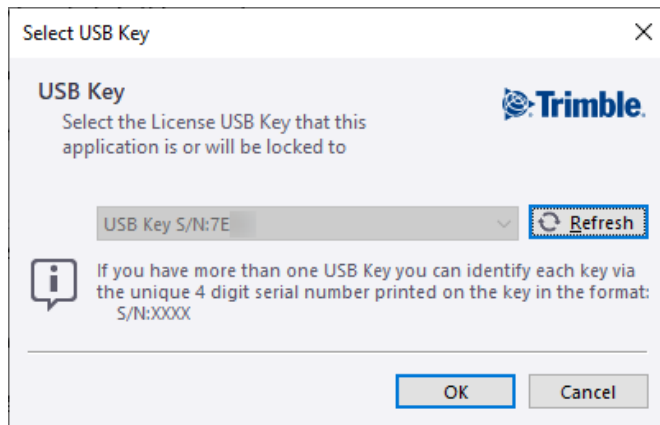

If you happen to choose the wrong option on this page, it is possible to change this setting once the installation is complete. We have an article on our website which describes that process [here](#).
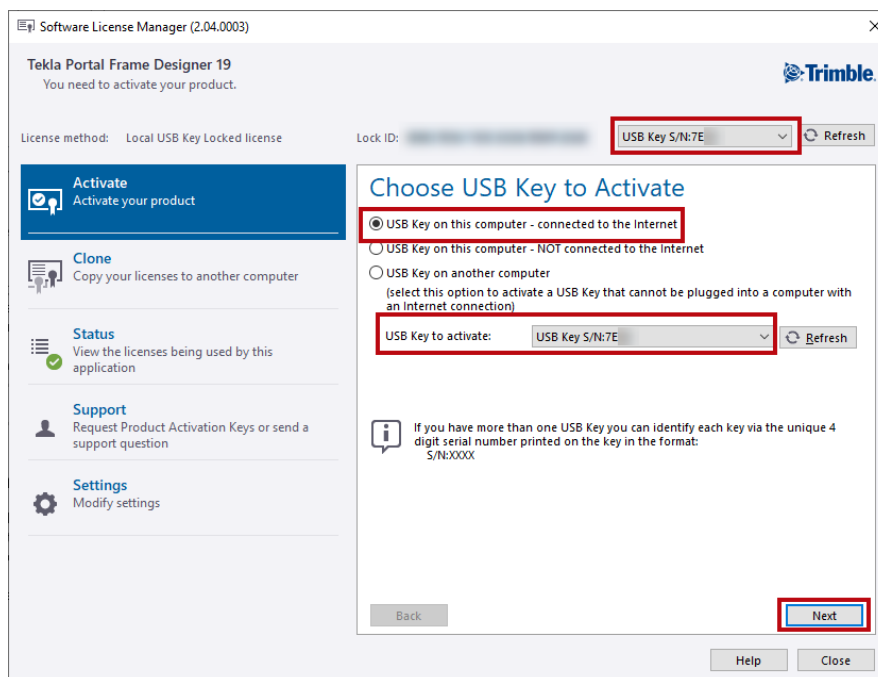
Process for upgrading existing machines with USB Keys

If you are upgrading to the latest version of one of our programs on a machine that was successfully running a previous version with the USB license, then the process is very straight forward:

1. **Install** the program on your machine, ensuring you select the **USB License option** during the installation process

2. Plug in the **USB** to that machine

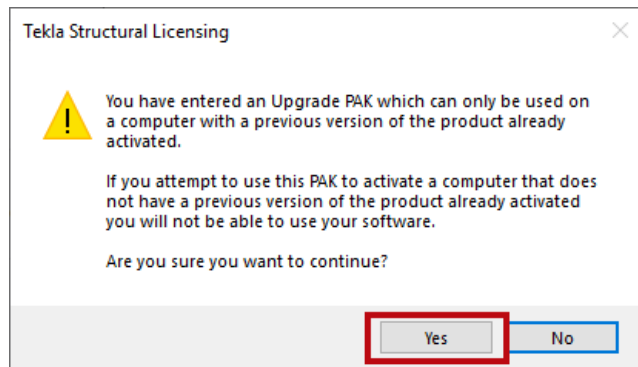3. Try to run the program – you'll be prompted to **Select USB Key**

4. Make sure your USB Key is selected using the drop down menu and click **OK –** if your USB key isn't listed, make sure it's plugged in properly, and then click **Refresh**

5. Choose **Activate** on the left hand side of the License Manager window that opens up

6. Make sure your USB Key is still displayed correctly, then select the first option on the right hand side and click **Next**
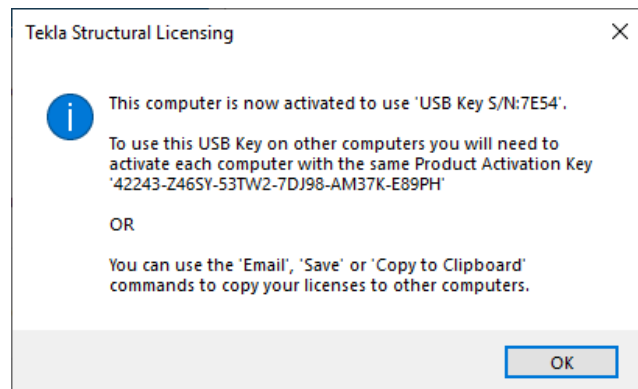
7. Enter your **Upgrade PAK Code** for the version of the program you've installed and click **Next**
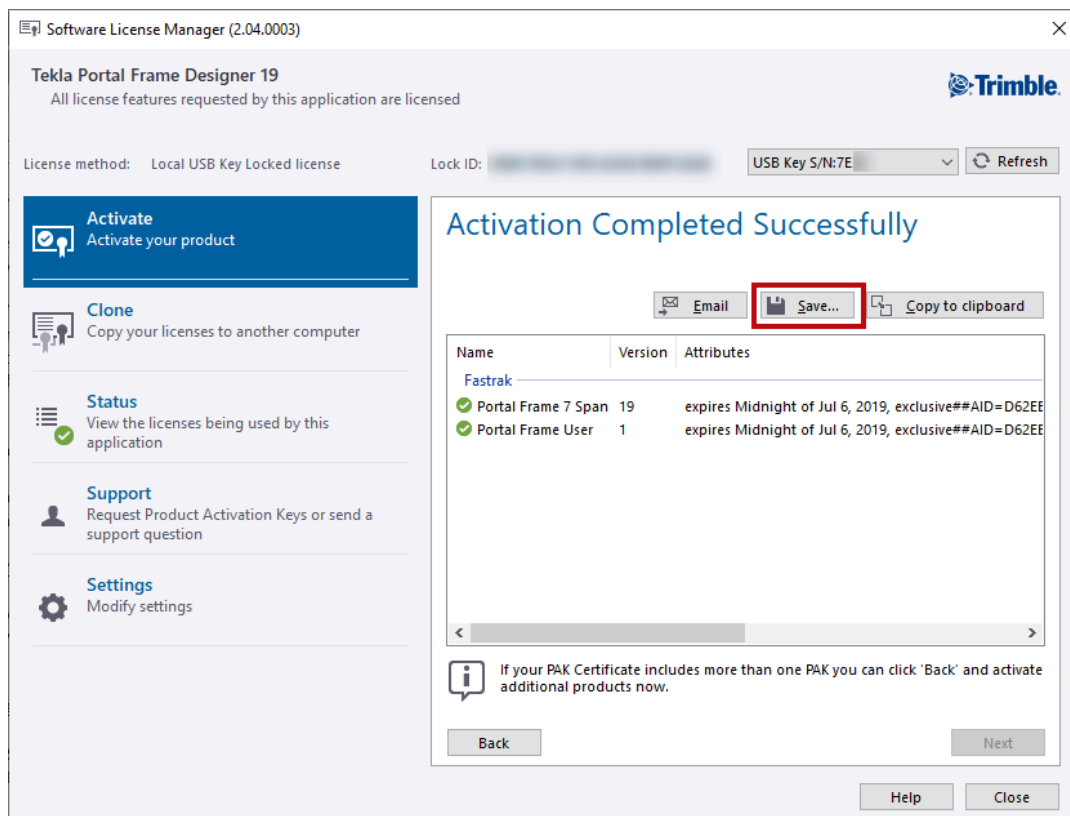
8. You will then receive the following message – this is simply telling you that you have entered an upgrade PAK Code, and that it will only work if the previous version of the software worked on this machine with this USB Key, so just click **Yes**

9. You will then receive another message once activated, as shown. This confirms the license is activated, and provides two options for you to share this license with others; either repeat this whole process on the other machine(s), OR use the **Save** option on the next page to create a file that can be shared with the other machine(s). Click **OK** to this message.

10. When the below window is displayed, this confirms the license is now activated, so you could click **Close** and the software will open up.

The **Save** button on this page will create a file in a location of your choosing. If you have a number of machines that you want to be able to use the USB Key license on, then use this option. You can then copy the file to each of the other machines and double click on it to activate the license for that machine. The USB Key doesn't need to be plugged in to those machines for it to work, but it is required to use the software. This process will only work if those other machines also had a previous version of the software working on them. **Do NOT use the Email or Copy To Clipboard options.**

To be able to use the USB license, you have to have the right version of the software installed, and have activated the corresponding PAK Code for that USB on that machine. This means, for example, that someone can't just steal the USB and get your license – you have to have the USB **AND** the PAK code.

Alternatively, the license can be **Cloned** – see details later

Process for licensing new machines with USB Keys

If you are installing one of our programs on a machine that has never had this software installed and licensed before, then the process is slightly different to the one used for existing machines:

1. Follow steps 1-9 from the previous section – these are identical steps
2. When you have the **Activation Completed Successfully** message in the License Manager window, instead of clicking Close, click the **Back** button
3. Enter the original **Full PAK Code**, probably for an earlier version, and click **Next** again
4. Once you get confirmation that this PAK Code has also been successfully activated, you can then click **Close** and the software will open

Activating Old PAK Codes

Historically, we have used two versions of the **Sentinel RMS licensing system**, each of which used a different one of our license servers to activate them.
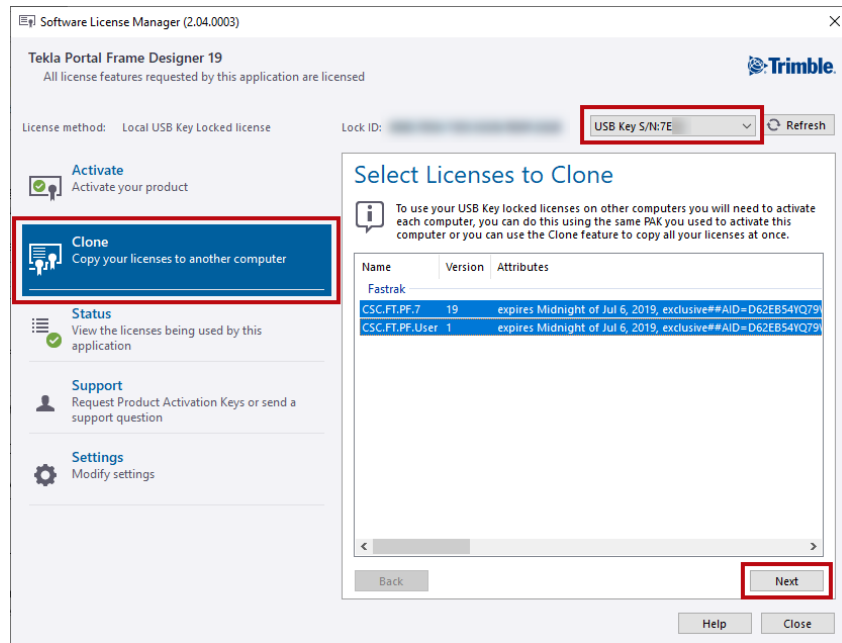
In 2014, we stopped issuing PAK Codes that would be activated using our older license server. In 2017, we then decommissioned that server, so if your original **Full PAK Code** was issued for the 2014 version of the software or earlier, then this PAK Code can't be activated on new machines any more. Therefore, if you need to activate your USB Key Licenses on a new machine using one of these older PAK Codes, then you MUST use the **Clone** functionality instead.
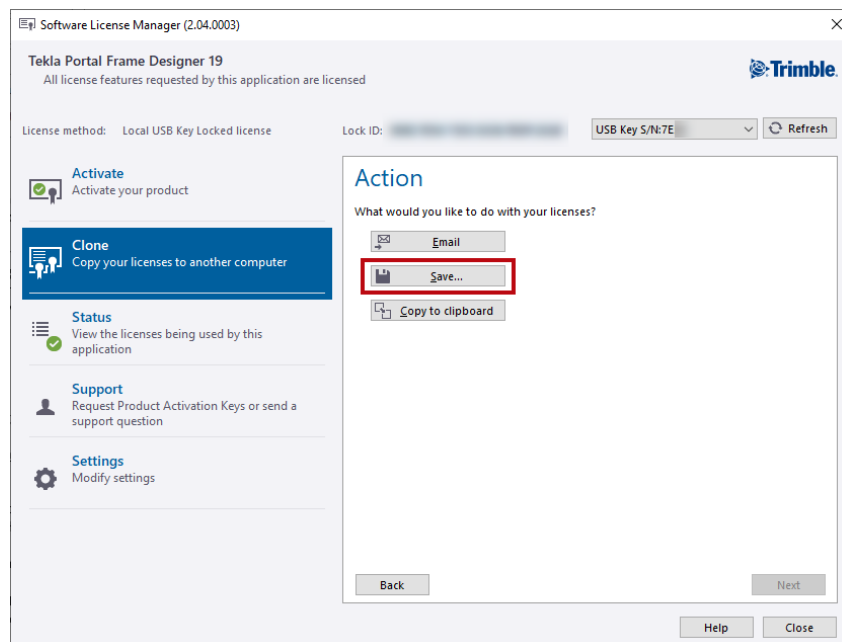
Cloning licenses

If you have several machines that need licensing for a USB Key, potentially in different locations, then the best option is to use the **Clone** functionality. You would plug the USB Key into the first machine and get everything working and licensed there. You can then create a file on that machine that you copy to all other machines. Double clicking the file on the other machines will activate the license on that machine for your USB Key, without actually requiring the USB to be plugged in at the time. However, you do still require the USB Key to actually open and use the software.

1. Following the previously discussed steps, get one machine up and running completely for the required version of the software, with the license properly activated and the USB Key plugged in

2. Open the **License Manager** application on that first machine, either from within the software or from the Start menu, or do this immediately after activating the last PAK Code

3. Select the **Clone** option on the left hand side of the License Manager window

4. **Select** all license components for the required program on the right, and click **Next**

5. Click **Save** and choose where you want to save the file

6. Once saved, **Share** this file with all other users, who just need the file copying onto their machines (anywhere), and then double click to activate the license

7. The other users can then just plug in the USB Key and open the software when they need to use it