ABB Robotics



ROBOTSTUDIO® NEW LICENSING MODEL

INTRODUCTION

With the release of RobotStudio® 2026.1 in April 2026, ABB introduced a new licensing model designed to provide greater flexibility, easier access, and simplified license management.

ABB Robotics is launching a new user-based (previously called enterprise or floating) company license, hosted in the cloud, enabling organizations to share licenses across users and devices more efficiently.

With the new licensing model, authorized users within a company can access RobotStudio licenses more flexibly across devices and locations. Unlike the previous system, where licenses were typically tied to a single computer, companies can now share licenses across multiple users through a centralized cloud-based license pool. This can help optimize license usage and reduce administrative overhead.

The new licensing model also introduces more flexible subscription options, with durations ranging from three months up to five years. This gives customers greater flexibility to adapt licensing to their business and project needs.

BENEFITS FOR YOU AS CUSTOMER



Flexible user-based per company



Cloud login for easy access from anywhere



User-based licenses are no longer locked to a specific computer



Borrow licenses for offline customer-site work



Transparent license management through R1

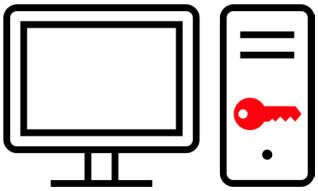
OLD VS NEW: THE LICENSING EVOLUTION

	RS 2025.x Uses the old licensing system*	RS 2026.x Uses the new licensing system**
License model	Locked to a specific PC	Company cloud license
User tracking	No	Full traceability (who/when/expiry)
Activation	Starts at activation	Starts at order
Access requirement	Fully offline	Internet required (offline by borrowing)
Floating capabilities	Local network server	Float across company via cloud
Offline support	Supported	Node-locked still available for offline use
Good to know	You can keep using the old system until your current license expires	Installing RS 2026.1 or purchasing/renewing a license, switches to the new licensing sytem

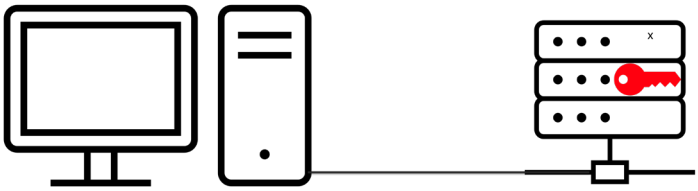
* You can keep using it until your current license expires
**Installing RS 2026.x or purchasing/renewing a license, switches you to the new licensing system

Old articles	New article		Description
3HAC031177-001	3HAC031177-002	RobotStudio User-based licenses	• 1, 2, 3, 5 and 10 users • 3, 6, 12, 24, 48 and 60 months
	3HAC031177-003	RobotStudio Node-locked	• 12, 24, 48 and 60 months
	3HAC031177-004	RobotStudio Partner (Only for AVP)	• Includes all CAD Converters and PowerPacs • 5 and 10 users, 12 months

CURRENT LICENSE FUNCTION

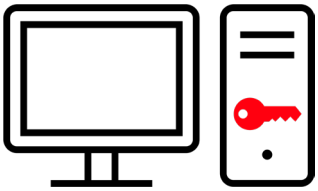


Node locked

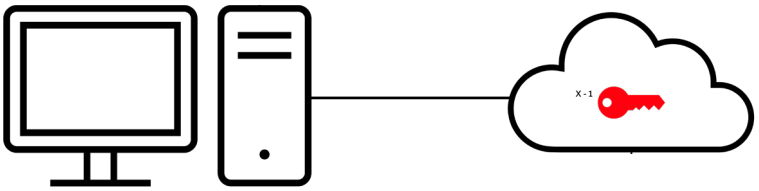


Customer license server

NEW LICENSE FUNCTION



Node locked
- Node Locked
- Trial



User-based license
- Enterprise
- Education
- Internal

OUR DIFFERENT LICENSES

PREMIUM LICENSES

UNDER DEV
RELEASE IN Q2



USER-BASED
Company license pool. Users sign in with an ABB Robotics account and assign a license to their machine for offline use.



NODE LOCKED
Locked to a device, not a user. No online connection needed to use; activation can be done offline or online.



TRIAL
30-day trial assigned to the device where it is activated. Requires an ABB Robotics account. One trial per user or machine.



EDUCATION
Managed by an Education Admin. Students are invited by email and access RobotStudio using an ABB Robotics account

USER-BASED LICENSE - PREMIUM LICENSE

What is it
- A company-based user-based license pool shared across multiple users
- Managed securely in the cloud by ABB Robotics / Wibu
- Users access licenses through an ABB Robotics account (company email)
- Each company can assign one or more license administrators
- Supports multiple license configurations (e.g. Premium, Premium + CAD)
- Designed to provide flexible access across devices and locations
- Supports both online and offline work after license assignment
- Includes transparent license tracking and simplified administration
- Licenses are valid for the purchased subscription period, activated on day of purchase.

How it works
1. User starts RobotStudio and the Access Application dialog appears
2. User logs in using their ABB Robotics account
3. The system checks available license grants for the account
4. User selects and confirms a license
5. RobotStudio restarts and assigns and locks the license to the device
6. User can work online or offline until the license expires
7. If no license is available, RobotStudio continues in Freemium Mode and the user can try again later via the Manage licenses dialog.

License expiry
- Warning notification at 30 days before expiry
- On expiry: user is notified and prompted to renew
- If no valid license exists, RobotStudio switches to Freemium Mode

Returning a license
- Users can return a license through the Manage Licenses dialog before expiry
- The license is released back into the company pool for other users
- RobotStudio restarts in Freemium Mode
- The user can assign a license again later by signing in again

Additional Information
- Included features can be upgraded during the subscription period by the company admin.
- To access newly added features, users may need to return and reassign the license
- Cloud services such as AI Assistant and version control are unavailable while working offline
- Offline users cannot access new RobotStudio updates
- If a user leaves the company, their assigned license remains tied to the specific device. Support can release the assigned license early if needed
- All license management is handled directly within RobotStudio

NODE LOCKED LICENSE - PREMIUM LICENSE

What is it

- A license tied to a specific device, not to a user account
- No ABB Robotics account required
- No internet connection needed to use RobotStudio® after activation
- Supports both online and offline activation methods
- Cloud-based services such as AI Assistant and version control are not available
- Activated using a ticket or activation code
- Well suited for legacy migration, factory machines, and offline-only company environments

How it works

Automatic Activation (Internet Access)

1. User opens the Access Application or Manage Licenses dialog
2. User selects “Activate License with Ticket”
3. User enters the ticket or activation code
4. RobotStudio activates the license instantly

Manual Activation (No Internet Access)

1. User creates a license request file in RobotStudio
2. User opens the provided activation URL
3. User enters the ticket or activation code
4. User uploads the requested file
5. User downloads the generated license update file
6. User uploads the update file back into RobotStudio to complete activation

TRIAL LICENSE

What is it

- A 30-day free trial that provides full access to RobotStudio® Premium features
- Assigned to the specific device where the trial is activated
- All Premium features can be used offline on the assigned device during the trial period (30 day)
- Cloud-based services remain available online from any device where the user signs in
- Requires an ABB Robotics account for activation
- Limited to one trial period per user or machine
- Designed for evaluation, testing, and exploring Premium functionality before purchase

How it works

Starting the Trial

1. User selects “Start Free Trial” in the Access Application dialog
2. User logs in or creates an ABB Robotics account
3. The trial license is assigned to the selected device
4. RobotStudio® restarts and activates functionality
5. If the trial has already been used on the user or device, activation is denied

Using the Trial

1. User can work in RobotStudio with an internet connection and access license features
2. Offline functionality remains available on the assigned device during the 30-day period
3. Cloud features remain accessible whenever the user signs in online
4. User receives a notification one day before the trial expires



EDUCATION LICENSE

What is it

- A license designed specifically for educational use and classroom environments
- Student access is managed centrally by an Education Admin
- Managed through approved ABB Robotics accounts and the RobotStudio Education Portal
- Students are invited to join the education license group by the administrator
- Students access RobotStudio using their ABB Robotics account
- Supports centralized onboarding, user management, and invitation handling
- Designed to simplify educational access for schools, universities, and training centers
- Education licenses are managed separately from commercial company licenses

How it works

Education Admin Workflow

1. The Education Admin requests the education license from ABB
2. The admin receives access to the RobotStudio® Education Portal
3. The admin creates and signs in with an ABB Robotics account
4. Students are added individually or imported from a user list
5. Invitation emails are sent to students
6. The admin can manage invitations, onboarding, and student status directly in the portal

Student User Workflow

1. Student receives an invitation email with setup instructions
2. Student creates an ABB Robotics account
3. Student downloads, installs, and opens RobotStudio
4. Student signs in using the ABB Robotics account
5. RobotStudio restarts after the education license is assigned
6. Student gains access to education license features

Release planned as part of the Q2 development roadmap

FREEMIUM MODE

What is it?

- A basic access mode that activates when no valid Premium license is available
- Provides access to standard RobotStudio functionality only
- Premium features and advanced capabilities are not included
- Applies automatically across all license types when a valid license cannot be verified

Freemium Mode can occur when:

- A trial license has expired
- A company license has been returned to the pool
- No user-based licenses are currently available
- Invitation access is missing or incomplete
- A Premium license has expired or cannot be validated

Additional Information

- Freemium Mode only includes basic RobotStudio functionality
- Premium simulation, advanced tools, and cloud features are disabled
- Users can obtain or reactivate a license at any time through the Manage Licenses dialog
- The Access Application dialog can be disabled from the Manage Licenses settings if required
- Freemium Mode ensures continued access to core RobotStudio functionality without blocking users completely



LICENSE TYPE COMPARISON

QUICK REFERENCE

	USER-BASED	NODE LOCKED	TRIAL	EDUCATION
Account needed	Company email	No	ABB Robotics	ABB Robotics
Who it targets	Company user pool	Single device	Evaluation user	Students invited by admin
How access starts	Assign from pool	Ticket / file	User starts trial	Invitation + sign-in
Admin / portal	Company admin	Activation only	No	Education admin

ROBOTSTUDIO® LICENSE FEATURES

	FREEMIUM	TRIAL	USER-BASED	NODE-LOCKED	PARTNER * (Only AVP)	EDUCATION
Program the robot	●	●	●	●	●	●
Configure the robot	●	●	●	●	●	●
Virtual commissioning/ adv simulation		●	●	●	●	●
Automatic Path planning		●	●	●	●	●
Optimizing and debugging		●	●	●	●	●
Sales tools, Virtual/Augmented Reality		●	●	●	●	●
RobotStudio Cloud & AI Assistant		●	●		●	●
CAD Converters		●			●	
Powerpacs		●			●	●
Number of users	Locked to specific PC	Locked to specific PC	1, 2, 3, 5 & 10	Locked to specific PC	5 & 10	100
Duration	Unlimited	30 Days	3, 6, 12, 24, 48 & 60 months	12, 24, 48 & 60 months	12 months	3, 6, 12, 24, 48 & 60 months

MIGRATION AND UPGRADE INFORMATION

Existing node-locked, network, and partner licenses can be transitioned to the new licensing system when upgrading to RobotStudio® 2026.x. Customers who need support during the transition are encouraged to contact their local ABB support team.

GETTING STARTED

To start using the new licensing experience, download RobotStudio® 2026.x from the ABB Robotics website.

TUTORIALS

1. Start your trial with RobotStudio 2026 - https://youtu.be/rU7-SQlD2uA
2. Online Activation of Node Locked License - https://youtu.be/OSsidWgUkrQ
3. Offline Activation of Node Locked - https://youtu.be/ytN5jDJ9dME
4. User-Based /Enterprise/Floating License - https://youtu.be/1CFzJpEvgcw

