



SNOW LICENSE MANAGER™ 2010

Version 5.0 Release Notes

Release Notes on Snow License Manager 2010 5.0

The release notes contain the following:

- New in Snow License manager 2010 (version 5.0)
- Key Features in version 5.0
- Fixed Bugs
- Known Issues

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What's new in Snow License Manager 2010 5.0

License types

Register licenses with two new types; Site license and Virtual license. The site license covers all installations within an organisation and its subsidiaries. You can allocate your license to any of the organisation nodes in your organisation structure. The virtual license is part of the named license type – such as named computer, processor and core licenses. This enables adding virtual computers as part of a physical installation (host). Among others, this license type covers the Microsoft Windows Enterprise license which allows you to run up to 4 virtual machines on the same host with one license.

Automatic allocation of licenses

When registering license purchases you can select to automatically allocate the purchased licenses to nodes in your organisation structure based on each nodes requirements. The auto allocate feature also considers automatic upgrades and downgrades and allocates licenses accordingly. Each time compliance is calculated in the platform all licenses with the auto allocate setting will be re-allocated.

Extension of agreement registration info and custom fields

With this new version of Snow License Manager you are able to add information on local contact, agreement owner, manufacturer contact etc. You can also add any number of custom fields to agreements.

Computer archive

Snow License Manager adds archiving ability to inventoried computers. When placed in archive the computer is moved to a separate storage and then deleted from the active storage. This enables the user to have the computer information intact without the actual computer being inventoried. An archived computer cannot be restored.

Custom fields, mandatory with default value

Custom fields can be made mandatory in editing pages. You can add the mandatory flag to any of your custom fields and also add a default value to be set on all existing items. All mandatory custom fields will also be automatically added to any computers or users transferred from Snow Inventory (if they do not already have a value for the specific custom field).

Application release date management

With the release date management we have a much more powerful way of handling historic licenses and agreements that has expired prior to Snow License Manager registration. We've also added the release date management to our SRS service, and have started to add the actual release date of the applications in the SRS database. You can however add your own release date for each application to support local releases of software.

Automatic downgrade paths

The USE_AUTO_DOWNGRADE setting enables automatic downgrades on each application. You can also setup how many previous versions an application should downgrade to. You can still manually set the downgrade path for any application.

New user interface

The much appreciated user interface of Snow License Manager now adds even more power to the user without having to implement major changes to the navigation and layout. The web application still has a very intuitive UI which provides the user with an easy to use yet powerful environment. The overall look and feel of the new administration tool resembles Office 2007. It has a completely new UI where toolbar ribbons replace the old style toolbars and menus, highlighting the features you use most frequent.

Excel exports

In this new version of Snow License Manager you can select to export lists without the Microsoft Excel 2003 limitation of 256 columns and 65,000 rows. The format is still Excel 2003 but it will ignore the row and column limitations. Exported files without limitations will only open in Excel 2007 or later.

Support and system information

Get information on how the system is working and the status of critical system functions. This feature also manages your system maintenance information, your license agreement and information on your inventory source. Register your support case or provide feedback on the product directly from within Snow License Manager.

New auto connect rule for users – “According to used computer”

This new auto connect rule enables you to add users to the same organisation as the computers they use. The users will be attached to the organisation of the last computer they logged on to (not including TS-servers).

Asset registration

Define and register your own asset objects in the system. You can register any object with its own definition and content.

Detail information views

- The application upgrade and downgrade paths are now visible in application detail views
- Added number of logons for a user on each computer in the user details view. Added number of logons per user in the computer detail view
- Format decimal numbers in all detail views (e.i. 1000 -> 1,000)
- For less scrolling and better usability we have added a user setting which enables the user to hide the page header (item summary) in editing pages
- In computer and user details pages you can select to show only applications that require a license
- Printing of selected areas (tab pages)
- Progress information when saving data

List and search views

- Added contract search list
- Organisation, local contact, agreement owner, manufacturer contact and custom fields selectable in contract list
- The application upgrade and downgrade paths are now visible in application list and search views
- Format decimal numbers in all detail views (e.i. 1000 -> 1,000)
- Added delete and archive directly from computer list and computer search pages

Other enhancements

- Added application type as criteria for application blacklists
- Specify weekday for full rule apply in License Manager Update Job
- Added ability for the user to select platform language before logging in
- Added "Single Sign On" (SSO) capabilities with the new SnowSoftware.Authenticator assembly (Enterprise platforms only). Requires the Snow License Manager SDK (sold separately)
- Added cascade delete for agreements - meaning that when you delete an agreement all sub-agreements, licenses, computers and objects are either deleted or detached from the agreement
- Added the field last logged on user to report and report arguments of the All computers report
- Application search box in license edit page is now resizable
- Login page enhanced with more apparent "signing in" progress
- Manufacturer information added to license list and search views
- Add named licenses without having adding the computer name. Will create over licensing.

Reports

- Added report – Printers per computer (All installed, used, shared or connected printers per computer)
- Added report – Applications per user (All used applications per user)
- Added report – Archived computers (All archived computers)
- Added report – Installations per organisation (All installed applications per organisation)
- Added report – License purchase allocation (Overview of license purchases allocated to organisation nodes)

Administration Tool

- New and enhanced report creation tool for advanced users
- New enhanced view for auto connect rules
- Added printing capabilities for all lists and views
- Added user, roles and restrictions report
- Add user to role functionality
- Extended filtering in applications list
- Admin user added as “customer user” in a Service Provider Platform is now restricted to its own customer data

Performance enhancements

- Completely new cache management platform with file cache for larger database queries and grid views which releases memory resources to the operating system
- Procedure cache and query statistics management added to enhance detail view performance

Key Features in Snow License Manager 2010

Automated upgrade and downgrade intelligence

Snow License Manager automatically calculates your compliance with consideration of your license maintenance program. The system maximises return on investment by intelligently using available licenses on the most expensive version of the software.

Save money with license pools

Snow License Manager automatically re-harvests unused or not installed licenses and creates a license pool for cost saving purposes. Easily manage one global or multiple local license pools for all or parts of your software in all or parts of your organisation. Make sure you never buy an unnecessary license again!

Manage legal compliance and cost ownership

Snow License Manager automatically compares licenses on a legal level for compliance as well as towards ownership within the organisation for internal cost control and management.

Combine central control with local administration

Snow License Manager enables central control over compliance with local license administration. Easily create local SAM owners with limited user rights and restrictions to only access information about their organisation node.

Manage processor based licenses

Snow License Manager automatically monitors compliance on your processor and core based licenses by performing real time monitoring towards the hardware that the software is installed on. If the hardware changes the license compliance changes accordingly.

SAM process enforcer

All processes and routines are dependent on all participants learning, understanding and following instructions and policies. Snow License Manager adapts the internal process and then instructs and helps administrators to comply on a daily basis.

Control the license registration by making specific fields required, creating drop down lists and much more. Snow License Manager allows easy identification of breaches in the process. The system uses ISO 19770 naming convention.

Manage named users

Snow License Manager alerts you when someone without correct permission uses an application, making it easy for you to remove unwanted installations, avoid potential threats to the legal compliance and enforce your IT-policy.

License upgrade backtracking

Easily trace upgrade path for upgraded applications to identify original license.

Monitor compliance trends

Daily Compliance History allows you to monitor compliance trends in your organisation based on historical data. Use this information to plan purchases and predict future license needs.

Store physical licenses and agreements

A license is a legal agreement between the user and the software owner, just accepting the digital user terms and conditions during the installation is not enough. Most software vendors require a copy of all physical license proofs and certificates in case of an audit.

Snow License Manager allows you to upload and store all relevant information centrally. Keep track of your own compliance with reports and get immediate alerts if licenses lack vital information.

Register other types of agreements and licenses

Store agreements for support or services, and license proofs for applications not yet possible to inventory, such as Unix.

Subscribe to alerts using RSS

Built in RSS feeds allows you to subscribe to alerts, ensuring you are always updated about urgent matters regardless how often you log on to Snow License Manager.

Black List applications

Snow License Manager immediately alerts you when unwanted applications as specified in the Black List are installed and used, helping you enforce your IT policy and ensuring a healthy and efficient IT environment.

Unlimited number of custom fields

Add custom fields for user and computer information not possible to inventory such as location, contact details and phone number. Snow License Manager has no maximum limit for number of custom fields –add as many as you need.

Trouble shooting has never been easier

Snow License Manager automatically saves detailed information about changes to help facilitate error diagnosis. Use Snow License Manager Action Log to quickly identify errors, when they occurred and who or what caused them.

Automated end of life management

Set up a fully automatic process to manage computers at the end of their life cycle. Automatically move computers no longer submitting inventory data to Quarantine status. Determine the time limit for your computer to stay in Quarantine before they are automatically removed or manually define and manage inactivated computers.

Automatic organisation management

Reduce manual organisation administration by automatically connecting users and computers to organisation nodes based on specified IP range, host name, serial number or Inventory ID.

Support for multiple currencies

Register licenses in local currencies while maintaining financial reports and follow ups in your organisation's main currency.

Based on the latest Microsoft Technology

Snow Software relies on a close partnership with Microsoft and other software vendors to ensure our systems are delivering the best possible value. Snow License Manager is based on the latest Microsoft technology such as .Net3.5, SQL Server 2008 and 64 bit OS to guarantee maximum performance and an optimal user experience.

Fixed Bugs

5.0

- Custom fields values not visible in computer list
- All users report not showing any values
- Performance issues when editing applications
- Bundle identification issues when running both TS and regular bundled version on same server
- The "No license required" licensing form no longer selectable when licenses are registered on an application
- Organisation ID is cropped resulting in faulty organisation checksums
- Computer names and device names containing "_" show not found page
- Alerts on period expiration for agreements even if a new period exists
- Update service backup routine fails when update is rolled back
- On version upgrade, no updates are shown in the Update Service UI
- License auto allocation completely re-designed
- Device information not shown on application details

Known Issues

- Right click context menus in Firefox and Safari web browsers does not work
- Very large (over 50 000 rows) report and list results may have issues when exporting to file from web UI
- In this release of Snow License Manager the site license and named license types (named, processor, processor core) does not allow for automatic upgrades or downgrades

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