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Can Software Licensed To A Single Computer Be Installed To A Network?

[Kristie Prinz](#)

Q. In a software installation CD we can often find instruction only to install in a single system and not more than a single system. Is it violative of the conditions to install the program in to a NETWORK?

-- *Ravikirana.K*

A.

If you purchase software that is licensed only for use on a single workstation or desktop and you install that software to a network, then you most likely will **breach the software license**.

Most software companies make their software products available to the public under two different types of [licenses](#): the home user license and the enterprise license. In some cases, these companies also offer a license intended for small businesses, which may authorize the licensee to install the software on a certain minimal number of desktop units.

In your case, I suspect from your question that you are purchasing software products intended for individual consumers rather than businesses. If you contact the licensor or even research the product online, I expect that you will find that a particular product is actually available at a higher price in a multi-user or enterprise license.

My advice would be to take a look at the software you have currently installed to your network, research the nature of each license, and then for each software product not installed under an appropriate license, you contact the company and inquire about upgrading to the right multi-user license.

Once you have done the legwork on this issue, you should be able to find the products offered under the right license in the future.

-- *Kristie Prinz*

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