



Floating License Server for ACDSee™ Photo Manager

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ACD Systems at the Hub of Digital Imaging

Based in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, ACD Systems designs, develops, and markets digital imaging and corporate communications software that meets the needs of home and professional users. Millions of consumers and more than 33,000 corporate clients use our flagship product ACDSee. To serve our global customers well, our Web content is available in 12 languages along with many of our products for PC and Macintosh®.

ACD Systems continues to capitalize on the explosive growth in the use of digital images via cameras, scanners, PDAs and the Internet. We have strong strategic alliances with value added resellers (VARs), original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), retailers, software publishers and distributors throughout North America and worldwide. Plus, our unique platform model and Software Development Kit (SDK) lets third parties offer their own imaging solutions through our software.

ACD Systems Ltd. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of ACD Systems International Inc., a public company listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange under the symbol "ASA".

Market Segment Overview

With a license sharing model, companies can share software licenses to reduce costs and still supply needed applications to their employees. You can purchase a specific number of licenses and a server application shares the licenses with client applications through a network. For example, a company of 100 people can purchase 20 licenses, install the software on every user's computer, and at any time, 20 people can use the software. Therefore, it is not necessary to purchase a copy of the program for every user. License sharing provides a flexible and cost effective software solution to companies of any size.

With the ACD Floating License Server, businesses can share licenses for ACDSee. This paper provides you with an overview of the technical specifications and requirements, program implementation, and functions of the ACD Floating License Server.

Executive Summary

ACD Systems is a world leader in the delivery of digital image management software to users in business, government, and educational settings. Our products offer many ways for users to manage, view, and enhance images that they have acquired from peripheral devices, such as scanners and digital cameras, or that they have imported from other programs.

The ACD Floating License Server works in conjunction with ACDSee client software. It is easy to install and simple to administer. The Floating License Server contains an interface for a system administrator to manage ACDSee client licenses, and a service, the Product Communication Server (PCS), to provide the license sharing functionality. A statistical display provides administrators with real-time updates of license use.

ACDSee is the award winning digital imaging software used by more than 24 million people and 33,000 corporate users worldwide. With ACDSee you get the fastest and most powerful image viewer available for Windows®. It has an easy-to-use interface so you can pick up a mouse and start viewing images. The program easily handles thousands of images at a time and supports over 50 file formats.

Floating License Server Features

- Display dynamic lists of current license holders and queued user requests
- Configure license options for keep alive messages and locked licenses
- Generate reports for license requests and queue status
- Perform remote silent installation of client software

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- Revoke client licenses
- Track user license status
- Broadcast messages to all clients
- Order new client licenses

Client Features

- Enter queue for available licenses automatically
- Display current license status
- Lock a license for extended use
- Configure network connection settings
- Initiate “keep alive” messages

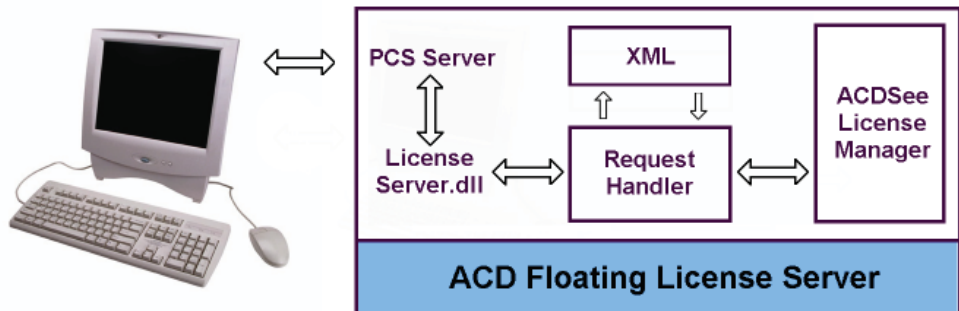
Cost Benefits

The ACD Floating License Server can manage a minimum of ten floating licenses, however purchasing more licenses increases your savings. For example, purchasing 20 floating licenses for a system of 100 computers saves you approximately 65% over purchasing a copy for each computer. Further cost benefits are seen over time with installation and administration; installation time and maintenance are minimal.

The Floating License Process

The Floating License Server can be installed on any computer running Windows NT® 4.0 Server or Windows 2000/2003 Server. ACDSee can be installed by a system administrator on client computers using a silent installation batch file. The batch file is included in the Floating License Server subfolder in the installation directory. After installing, FLS actively manages ACDSee licenses.

When a client submits a request for a license, a RequestHandler uses an XML object to parse the message and extract the necessary data to send to the LicenseManager. The LicenseManager checks the availability and state of licenses and issues a response back to the RequestHandler, which creates a message for the client using the XML object.



Once the client has a license, it sends keep alive messages to the LicenseManager at intervals set by the system administrator. The LicenseManager sends a return message to maintain or revoke the license. Keep alive messages generated by one client are not sent at exactly the same time as those generated by another client. This ensures that networks are not impacted by simultaneous messaging.

As more clients request licenses, FLS tracks and displays a status of each license. When there are more license requests than there are licenses available, a queue is created. Once a user with a license stops using ACDSee, the license is automatically issued to the first person in the queue.

The system administrator retains control over licenses and can limit the length of time a user can lock a license, revoke a license, or set a license time-out period.

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Technical Specifications

Minimum System Requirements

The ACD Floating License Server and ACDSee client systems must meet or exceed the following requirements:

Client

Hardware

Intel Pentium® III / AMD Athlon processor or equivalent
(Intel Pentium® 4 / AMD Athlon XP or equivalent recommended)

256 MB RAM (512 MB RAM recommended)

100 MB free hard drive space (1 GB recommended)

High Color display adapter at 1024 x 768 resolution
(1600 x 1200 recommended)

CD/DVD Burner - for creating CDs and DVDs

Software

Windows® 2000 or Windows® XP (Windows XP recommended)

Microsoft® Internet Explorer™ 5.0.0 (6.0.0 recommended)

TiVo® Desktop Software - to publish images to your TiVo

Microsoft® DirectX® 9.0 - for Microsoft DirectX file format support,
and to create slide shows and screen savers

Ghostscript® 8.0 - for PDF support

Windows Media™ Player 9.0 or later

Server

Hardware

5 MB free hard disk drive space

Software

Windows® NT 4.0 Server, 2000/2003 Server

Microsoft® Internet Explorer 5.0.0

Installation

You may need to reboot the server to completely install or uninstall the ACD Floating License Server application.

Required Protocols

TCP/IP

Network Services

The Product Communication Server (PCS) service is installed and provides the license sharing functionality of the ACD Floating License Server.

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Network Bandwidth Requirements

A keep alive message generated by a client creates a token of approximately 200 bytes in size prior to TCP/IP packaging. An equal sized response message is returned from the server. Keep alive messages generated by one client are not sent at exactly the same time as those generated by another client.

Broadcast messages sent from the server generate a token of 400 - 500 bytes in size. Broadcast messages are sent to all clients simultaneously.

Contacting ACD Systems

Contact us by mail at:

ACD Systems Ltd.
2261-C Keating Cross Rd.
Victoria, BC
V8M 2A5
Canada

If you have any technical related questions or general feedback, please visit our Web site at:

www.acdsee.com/support

Telephone us for technical support at (250) 544-6701. Our office hours are Monday to Friday, 7am to 5pm PST. During U.S. and Canadian statutory holidays, our hours of support are 8am to 4pm PST.

Telephone calls for Technical Support are subject to international rates if calling from outside of Canada, and/or long distance charges if calling from within Canada.

Feedback

Your feedback is important to us. Many features and portions of the interface continue to be influenced by comments from users. So if you have a grand idea for a new feature, or a better way of doing something, please drop us a note.

E-mail: ideas@acdsystems.com *

Telephone: (250) 544-6700

* This e-mail address is not intended for technical support questions; technical related questions will not receive a reply.