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[COVID-19: Working From Home Tips to Get You Through the Crises](#)

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Software Licensing For Home Workers

Below, we will focus on software licensing requirements for architects, designers and BIM managers, and formulate some options for staff to effectively work remotely.

Keep in mind that the most effective outcome can be different for each employee in a company, so it might help to think of this as a checklist.

Access to software depends, mainly, on the hardware option staff have. Licensing is also a big factor. *Consider the following...*

Software is accessed by:

- Company hardware:
 - Installed on company laptop
 - Remote desktop from home computer to company desktop
 - VDI option; Company laptop or home computer connects to VDI session on company server
- Home installation
 - Installed on personal computer; if licensing allows it

Licensing options:

- Network licenses; local server-based
 - Laptop users need to check out a license to work remotely
 - Do this before leaving the office, or
 - Via a VPN connection to the office
 - Warning: Only check out for time needed to avoid running out of seats or locking up a license in case of remote hardware failure; even Autodesk cannot free up a checked-out license.
 - Remote desktop users do not need to check out a license
- Network licenses; cloud-based
 - Requires internet connection
 - Enscape uses this model; thus, anyone can install the software on any computer, anywhere. When attempting to use Enscape, you will be granted a license as long as the maximum number of concurrent users has not been met.
- Named users
 - Adobe, Microsoft, Autodesk, etc.
 - Logging in to an app at work or at home allows access to the software
 - Some limit the number of computers the app can be installed on and concurrent use
- Home Use License
 - Account admin downloads special serial number to give to staff
 - Installed on home computer (i.e. personal computer)
 - Cannot (legally) be installed on company computer (Autodesk audit will search for this and fine the company)

- Companies with Autodesk Network licenses have access to one home use license for each network license
- No restrictions on using it for production work
- Automatic 12-month expiration

Project data location

Depending on your primary hardware, there are different ways in which staff can access company data and software. *Consider the following...*

Common project data locations:

- Company servers; LAN, WAN
- Autodesk BIM 360 Design
- Professional cloud service; e.g. Panzura Advance2000

Project content

Access to AutoCAD blocks, Revit families or arch viz assets (textures) also need to be accessible. *Consider the following...*

Some content locations are:

- Local server; LAN, WAN
- Cloud-based
 - Hive allows content to be stored in the cloud

Examples of Hardware, Software and Data Scenarios

With the multitude of hardware, software and project data information in hand, let's look at a few ways in which various staff might work remotely.

User A

Company laptop + Revit network license + BIM 360 Design

- Take laptop home daily
- Check out a network license before leaving the office, or connect via VPN and check out a license; disconnect VPN to improve local performance and to free up company bandwidth
- Access content (e.g. blocks or families); connect via VPN or use Hive
- Access project files via direct BIM 360 Design connection

User B

Company Laptop + Revit network license + local server

- This condition cannot work in a workshared Revit project.
- If there is ONLY one user working on the project, they can download the central file to their local computer and work on it there.
- BIM 360 Design or something like Panzura are the only options.
- Tip: BIM 360 Design can be purchased monthly per user via Autodesk's website.

User C

Company desktop + Revit network license + BIM 360 Design

- Leave desktop turned on overnight and weekends
- Must have personal computer
 - With adequate screen for production work
 - Computer does not need to be very powerful as all compute power will be done on the company computer
- Connect to work computer via Remote Desktop (RDP)
 - Company IT department should create how-to document
- Use your remote connection as if you were in the office
 - Nothing different for licensing
 - Nothing different for project data access

User D

Personal computer + Home Use license + BIM 360 Design

- Must have personal computer
 - With adequate screen for production work
 - Computer does not need to be very powerful as all compute power will be done on the company computer
 - Installed home use license
- Connect to project data directly via BIM 360
- Access company content via Hive
- Project data on local server problem: most companies do not allow non-company computers to connect to company servers via VPN
 - Option: store some files in BIM 360 Docs, to be shared by team
- FYI: this option is also good to have in place in the event an office is not accessible for whatever reason.

User E

Company laptop + AutoCAD + local server

- Connect via VPN
- Open AutoCAD
- Access project files and content via VPN
 - Avoid downloading files to work on them as others might edit the same files
 - If files are downloaded, consider renaming them on the server until replaced; but this will break xrefs for others
 - BIM 360 Design now supports Civil 3D

Important: Speak with your IT department and check that you have everything that you need before working from home.

For more home working tips - check out this article:

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