

# Run a previous software version using a current version license

A lower software version may be run using a higher version license (please see the specific examples below). See the version specific examples below. This may require creating and using a text file named [level.txt](#) within the installation folder of the earlier product version.

On this page:

## Level.txt file

To create a [level.txt](#) file, create a text file with the **Product Level** and **Product Version** of the current license (please see examples below for exact specifications). Rename the file as [level.txt](#) and copy into the location listed below.

### Location of level.txt file

- **Standalone license** – For a standalone license, the level.txt file should be located in the lower version program folder, which contains the program executable (\*.exe). The license file ("Iservrc" file) of the current version should also be copied into this same folder as the level.txt.
- **Network license (with full product installation on client machine)** – The level.txt file should be located on the client machine in the lower version program folder, which contains program executable (\*.exe).
- **Network license with workstation installation on client machine** – For a workstation installation, the level.txt file should be located on the server in the lower version program folder, which contains program executable (\*.exe).

**NOTE:** This process may not work when versions are separated by more than one major release, in which case the license file for the older version should be requested. It is not possible to run V15 using V16 license, because the licensing system has changed between program versions.

## CSiBridge Examples

### Running CSiBridge 2017 (v19) using a CSiBridge v20 (2018) license

When running CSiBridge 2017 (v19) using a CSiBridge v20 (2018), the level.txt file created will contain one line with the following information:

- **Line 1: [Product Level] [Product Version]**

Product level should be the level of the current license, for example: 'PLUS', 'PLUSRATING', 'ADVANCED' or 'ADVANCEDRATING', etc. See [level.txt](#) for a list of levels for each CSI program. Product version should be the version number of the current license. Please note in this case, the product version for the current license is "2018" and not version "20".

For example:

```
ADVANCED 2018
```

Please see your licensing option below for the appropriate locations for where the level.txt and activated license should reside:

- **Standalone license** –
  - **Web-Activated License:**
    - License file:
      - The CSiBridge v20 (2018) license must be activated on this machine.
      - Copy the "Iservrc" file from Computers and Structures > CSiBridge 20 folder into the Computers and Structures > CSiBridge 2017 folder.
      - The "Iservrc" file must be copied each time the v20 license is activated on this machine. Once v20 has been deactivated from this machine, the CSiBridge 2017 (v19) product will also stop working.
    - Level.txt: The level.txt file will also be copied into the CSiBridge 2017 folder (Computers and Structures > CSiBridge 2017)
  - **Manual License** (such as license locked to USB key):
    - License file: Copy the CSiBridge v20 (2018) "Iservrc" file into the Computers and Structures > CSiBridge 2017 folder (from Computers and Structures > CSiBridge 20 folder).
    - Level.txt: The level.txt file will also be copied into the CSiBridge 2017 folder (Computers and Structures > CSiBridge 2017)
- **Network license** – The CSiBridge v20 (2018) license will reside on the server for a [network license](#). The level.txt file will reside on the client machine, copied into the CSiBridge 2017 folder which contains the CSiBridge.exe.

### Running CSiBridge 2016 (v18) using a CSiBridge 2017 (v19) license

When running CSiBridge 2016 (v18) using a CSiBridge 2017 (v19), the level.txt file created will contain one line with the following information:

- **Line 1: [Product Level] [Product Version]**

Product level should be the level of the current license, for example: 'PLUS', 'PLUSRATING', 'ADVANCED' or 'ADVANCEDRATING', etc. See [level.txt](#) for a list of levels for each CSI program. Product version should be the version number of the current license.

For example:

ADVANCED 2017

Please see your licensing option below for the appropriate locations for where the level.txt and activated license should reside:

- **Standalone license** –
  - **License file:** The CSiBridge 2017 (v19) license must be activated on this machine. Copy the "Iservrc" file from Computers and Structures > CSiBridge 2017 folder into the Computers and Structures > CSiBridge 2016 folder. The "Iservrc" file must be copied each time the 2017 license is activated on this machine. Once 2017 has been deactivated from this machine, CSiBridge 2016 (v18) will also stop working.
  - **Level.txt:** The level.txt file will also be copied into the CSiBridge 2016 folder (Computers and Structures > CSiBridge 2016)
- **Network license** – The CSiBridge 2017 (v19) license will reside on the server for a [network license](#). The level.txt file will reside on the client machine, copied into the CSiBridge 2016 folder which contains the CSiBridge.exe.

## Running CSiBridge 2015 (v17) using a CSiBridge 2016 (v18) license

**PLEASE NOTE:** Only the latest version of CSiBridge 2015 (v17.3.0 RMS 8.6) will work with the CSiBridge 2016 license. Please email support ([support@csiamerica.com](mailto:support@csiamerica.com)) to download CSiBridge 2015. This version is not available for download from the CSI Installation Wizard. Please uninstall your current CSiBridge 2015 before installing the new CSiBridge 2015 (v17.3.0 RMS 8.6). CSiBridge 2015 v17.3.0 RMS 8.6 is identical to CSiBridge 2015 v17.3.0 except for the update to the licensing.

When running CSiBridge 2015 (v17) using a CSiBridge 2016 (v18), a level.txt is **not** required.

Please see your licensing option below for the appropriate locations for where the activated license should reside:

- **Standalone license** –
  - **License file:** The CSiBridge 2016 license must be activated on this machine. Copy the "Iservrc" file from Computers and Structures > CSiBridge 2016 folder into the Computers and Structures > CSiBridge 2015 folder. The "Iservrc" file must be copied each time the 2016 license is activated on this machine. Once 2016 has been deactivated from this machine, CSiBridge 2015 (v17) will also stop working.
- **Network license** – The CSiBridge 2016 (v18) license will reside on the server for a [network license](#). Once the client machines have been updated to the correct version of CSiBridge 2015 (v17.3.0 RMS 8.6), the client machine will automatically pick up the CSiBridge 2016 network license.

## Running CSiBridge 2014 (v16) using a CSiBridge 2015 (v17) license

**PLEASE NOTE:** Only CSiBridge 2014 (v16.1.0/1) will work with the CSiBridge 2015 (v17) license. Please check you have upgraded to this version. CSiBridge v16.1.0/1 is identical to CSiBridge v16.1.0 except for the update to the licensing.

When running CSiBridge 2014 (v16) using a CSiBridge 2015 (v17), the level.txt file created will contain one line with the following information:

- **Line 1: [Product Level] [Product Version]**

Product level should be the level of the current license, for example: 'PLUS', 'PLUSRATING', 'ADVANCED' or 'ADVANCEDRATING', etc. See [level.txt](#) for a list of levels for each CSI program. Product version should be the version number of the current license.

For example:

ADVANCED 2015

Please see your licensing option below for the appropriate locations for where the level.txt and activated license should reside:

- **Standalone license** –
  - **License file:** The CSiBridge 2015 (v17) license must be activated on this machine. Copy the "Iservrc" file from Computers and Structures > CSiBridge 2015 folder into the Computers and Structures > CSiBridge 2014 folder. The "Iservrc" file must be copied each time the 2015 license is activated on this machine. Once 2015 has been deactivated from this machine, CSiBridge 2014 (v16) will also stop working.
  - **Level.txt:** The level.txt file will also be copied into the CSiBridge 2014 folder (Computers and Structures > CSiBridge 2014)
- **Network license** – The CSiBridge 2015 (v17) license will reside on the server for a [network license](#). The level.txt file will reside on the client machine, copied into the CSiBridge 2014 folder which contains the CSiBridge.exe.

## ETABS Examples

### Running ETABS v17 using an ETABS v18 license

When running [ETABS](#) v17 using an [ETABS](#) v18 license, the level.txt file created will contain one line with the following information:

- **Line 1: [Product Level] [Product Version]**

Product level should be the level of the current license, for example: 'PLUS', 'NONLINEAR', or 'ULTIMATE', etc. See [level.txt](#) for a list of levels for each CSI program. Product version should be the version number of the current license.

For example:

ULTIMATE 18

Please see your licensing option below for the appropriate locations for where the level.txt and activated license should reside:

- **Standalone license –**
  - **Web-Activated License:**
    - License file:
      - The ETABS v18 license must be activated on this machine.
      - Copy the "Iservrc" file from Computers and Structures > ETABS 18 folder into the Computers and Structures > ETABS 17 folder.
      - The "Iservrc" file must be copied each time the v18 license is activated on this machine. Once v18 has been deactivated from this machine, the ETABS v17 product will also stop working.
    - Level.txt: The level.txt file will also be copied into the ETABS 17 folder (Computers and Structures > ETABS 17)
  - **Manual License** (such as license locked to USB key):
    - License file: Copy the ETABS v18 "Iservrc" file into the Computers and Structures > ETABS 17 folder (from Computers and Structures > ETABS 18 folder).
    - Level.txt: The level.txt file will also be copied into the ETABS 17 folder (Computers and Structures > ETABS 17)
- **Network license –** The ETABS v18 license will reside on the server for a [network license](#). The level.txt file will reside on the client machine, copied into the ETABS 17 folder which contains the ETABS.exe.

## Running ETABS 2016 using an ETABS 17 license

**PLEASE NOTE:** Only the latest version of ETABS 2016 (v16.2.2) will work with the ETABS v17 license. Please email support ([support@csiamerica.com](mailto:support@csiamerica.com)) to download ETABS v16.2.2. This version is not available for download from the CSI Installation Wizard. ETABS v16.2.2 is functionally identical to ETABS v16.2.1 except for the update to the licensing. Model files are interchangeable between the two versions, and both versions produce identical results to within the numerical accuracy of the computer.

When running ETABS 2016 using a [ETABS 17](#) license, a level.txt is **not** required.

Please see your licensing option below for the appropriate locations for where the activated license should reside:

- **Standalone license –**
  - License file: The ETABS v17 license must be activated on this machine. Copy the "Iservrc" file from Computers and Structures > ETABS 17 folder into the Computers and Structures > ETABS 2016 folder. The "Iservrc" file must be copied each time the ETABS v17 license is activated on this machine. Once the ETABS v17 license has been deactivated from this machine, ETABS 2016 product will also stop working.
- **Network license –** The ETABS v17 license will reside on the server for a [network license](#). Once the client machines have been updated to the correct version of ETABS 2016 (v16.2.2), the client machine will automatically pick up the ETABS v17 network license.

## Running ETABS 2015 using an ETABS 2016 license

**PLEASE NOTE:** Only the latest version of ETABS 2015 (v15.2.3) will work with the ETABS 2016 license. Please email support ([support@csiamerica.com](mailto:support@csiamerica.com)) to download ETABS 2015 (v15.2.3). This version is not available for download from the CSI Installation Wizard. ETABS v15.2.3 is functionally identical to ETABS v15.2.2 except for the update to the licensing. Model files are interchangeable between the two versions, and both versions produce identical results to within the numerical accuracy of the computer.

When running ETABS 2015 using a [ETABS 2016](#) license, a level.txt is **not** required.

Please see your licensing option below for the appropriate locations for where the activated license should reside:

- **Standalone license –**
  - License file: The ETABS 2016 license must be activated on this machine. Copy the "Iservrc" file from Computers and Structures > ETABS 2016 folder into the Computers and Structures > ETABS 2015 folder. The "Iservrc" file must be copied each time the ETABS 2016 license is activated on this machine. Once the ETABS 2016 license has been deactivated from this machine, ETABS 2015 product will also stop working.
- **Network license –** The ETABS 2016 license will reside on the server for a [network license](#). Once the client machines have been updated to the correct version of ETABS 2015 (v15.2.3), the client machine will automatically pick up the ETABS 2016 network license.

## Running ETABS 2013 using an ETABS 2015 license

When running [ETABS 2013](#) using a [ETABS 2015](#) license, the level.txt file created will contain one line with the following information:

- **Line 1: [Product Level] [Product Version]**

Product level should be the level of the current license, for example: 'PLUS', 'NONLINEAR' or 'ULTIMATE', etc. See [level.txt](#) for a list of levels for each CSI program. Product version should be the version number of the current license.

For example:

## NONLINEAR 2015

Please see your licensing option below for the appropriate locations for where the level.txt and activated license should reside:

- **Standalone license** –
  - **License file:** The ETABS 2015 license must be activated on this machine. Copy the "lserverc" file from Computers and Structures > ETABS 2015 folder into the Computers and Structures > ETABS 2013 folder. The "lserverc" file must be copied each time the ETABS 2015 license is activated on this machine. Once ETABS 2015 has been deactivated from this machine, ETABS 2013 will also stop working.
  - **Level.txt:** The level.txt file will also be copied into the ETABS 2013 folder (Computers and Structures > ETABS 2013)
- **Network license** – The ETABS 2015 license will reside on the server for a [network license](#). The level.txt file will reside on the client machine, copied into the ETABS 2013 folder which contains the ETABS.exe.

## SAFE Example

### Running SAFE 2014 using a SAFE 2016 license

**PLEASE NOTE:** Only the latest version of SAFE 2014 (v14.2.1) will work with the SAFE 2016 license. This new version of SAFE 2014 (v14.2.1) can be downloaded from [here](#) (it is not available for download from the CSI Installation Wizard). SAFE v14.2.1 is functionally identical to SAFE v14.2.0 except for the update to the licensing. Model files are interchangeable between the two versions, and both versions produce identical results to within the numerical accuracy of the computer.

When running SAFE 2014 using a SAFE 2016 license, a level.txt is **not** required.

Please see your licensing option below for the appropriate locations for where the activated license should reside:

- **Standalone license** –
  - **License file:** The SAFE 2016 license must be activated on this machine. Copy the "lserverc" file from Computers and Structures > SAFE 2016 folder into the Computers and Structures > SAFE 2014 folder. The "lserverc" file must be copied each time the SAFE 2016 license is activated on this machine. Once the SAFE 2016 license has been deactivated from this machine, SAFE 2014 product will also stop working.
- **Network license** – The SAFE 2016 license will reside on the server for a [network license](#). Once the client machines have been updated to the correct version of SAFE 2014 (v14.2.1), the client machine will automatically pick up the SAFE 2014 network license.

## SAP2000 Examples

### Running SAP2000 v20 using a SAP2000 v21 license

**PLEASE NOTE:** Only the latest version of SAP2000 v20.2.1 will work with the SAP2000 v18 license. Please email support ([support@csiamerica.com](mailto:support@csiamerica.com)) to download SAP2000 v20.2.1. This version is not available for download from the CSI Installation Wizard. Please uninstall your current SAP2000 v20 before installing the new v20.2.1. SAP2000 v20.2.1 is identical to SAP2000 v20.2.0 except for the update to the licensing.

When running [SAP2000 v20](#) using a [SAP2000 v21](#) license, a level.txt is **not** required.

Please see your licensing option below for the appropriate locations for where the activated license should reside:

- **Standalone license** –
  - **License file:** The SAP2000 v21 license must be activated on this machine. Copy the "lserverc" file from Computers and Structures > SAP2000 21 folder into the Computers and Structures > SAP2000 20 folder. The "lserverc" file must be copied each time the v21 license is activated on this machine. Once v21 has been deactivated from this machine, SAP2000 v20 will also stop working.
- **Network license** – The SAP2000 v21 license will reside on the server for a [network license](#). Once the client machines have been updated to the correct version of SAP2000 v20.2.1, the client machine will automatically pick up the SAP2000 v21 network license.

### Running SAP2000 v19 using a SAP2000 v20 license

When running [SAP2000 v19](#) using a [SAP2000 v20](#) license, the level.txt file created will contain one line with the following information:

- **Line 1: [Product Level] [Product Version]**

Product level should be the level of the current license, for example: 'BASIC', 'PLUS', 'ADVANCED' or 'ULTIMATE', etc. See [level.txt](#) for a list of levels for each CSI program. Product version should be the version number of the current license.

For example:

```
ADVANCED 20
```

Please see your licensing option below for the appropriate locations for where the level.txt and activated license should reside:

- **Standalone license** –
  - **Web-Activated License:**

- **License file:**
  - The SAP2000 v20 license must be activated on this machine.
  - Copy the "lservrc" file from Computers and Structures > SAP2000 20 folder into the Computers and Structures > SAP2000 19 folder.
  - The "lservrc" file must be copied each time the v20 license is activated on this machine. Once v20 has been deactivated from this machine, the SAP2000 v19 product will also stop working.
- **Level.txt:** The level.txt file will also be copied into the SAP2000 19 folder (Computers and Structures > SAP2000 19)
- **Manual License** (such as license locked to USB key):
  - **License file:** Copy the SAP2000 v20 "lservrc" file into the Computers and Structures > SAP2000 19 folder (from Computers and Structures > SAP2000 20 folder).
  - **Level.txt:** The level.txt file will also be copied into the SAP2000 19 folder (Computers and Structures > SAP2000 19)
- **Network license** – The SAP2000 v20 license will reside on the server for a [network license](#). The level.txt file will reside on the client machine, copied into the SAP2000 19 folder which contains the SAP2000.exe.

## Running SAP2000 v18 using a SAP2000 v19 license

When running [SAP2000](#) v18 using a [SAP2000](#) v19 license, the level.txt file created will contain one line with the following information:

- **Line 1: [Product Level] [Product Version]**

Product level should be the level of the current license, for example: 'BASIC', 'PLUS', 'ADVANCED' or 'ULTIMATE', etc. See [level.txt](#) for a list of levels for each CSI program. Product version should be the version number of the current license.

For example:

ADVANCED 19

Please see your licensing option below for the appropriate locations for where the level.txt and activated license should reside:

- **Standalone license** –
  - **Web-Activated License:**
    - **License file:**
      - The SAP2000 v19 license must be activated on this machine.
      - Copy the "lservrc" file from Computers and Structures > SAP2000 19 folder into the Computers and Structures > SAP2000 18 folder.
      - The "lservrc" file must be copied each time the v19 license is activated on this machine. Once v19 has been deactivated from this machine, SAP2000 v18 will also stop working.
    - **Level.txt:** The level.txt file will also be copied into the SAP2000 18 folder (Computers and Structures > SAP2000 18)
  - **Manual License** (such as license locked to USB key):
    - **License file:** Copy the SAP2000 v19 "lservrc" file into the Computers and Structures > SAP2000 18 folder (from Computers and Structures > SAP2000 19 folder).
    - **Level.txt:** The level.txt file will also be copied into the SAP2000 18 folder (Computers and Structures > SAP2000 18)
- **Network license** – The SAP2000 v19 license will reside on the server for a [network license](#). The level.txt file will reside on the client machine, copied into the SAP2000 18 folder which contains the SAP2000.exe.

## Running SAP2000 v17 using a SAP2000 v18 license

**PLEASE NOTE:** Only the latest version of SAP2000 v17.3.0 RMS 8.6 will work with the SAP2000 v18 license. Please email support ([support@csi-america.com](mailto:support@csi-america.com)) to download SAP2000 v17.3.0 RMS 8.6. This version is not available for download from the CSI Installation Wizard. Please uninstall your current SAP2000 v17 before installing the new v17.3.0 RMS 8.6. SAP2000 v17.3.0 RMS 8.6 is identical to SAP2000 v17.3.0 except for the update to the licensing.

When running [SAP2000](#) v17 using a [SAP2000](#) v18 license, a level.txt is **not** required.

Please see your licensing option below for the appropriate locations for where the activated license should reside:

- **Standalone license** –
  - **License file:** The SAP2000 v18 license must be activated on this machine. Copy the "lservrc" file from Computers and Structures > SAP2000 18 folder into the Computers and Structures > SAP2000 17 folder. The "lservrc" file must be copied each time the v18 license is activated on this machine. Once v18 has been deactivated from this machine, SAP2000 v17 will also stop working.
- **Network license** – The SAP2000 v18 license will reside on the server for a [network license](#). Once the client machines have been updated to the correct version of SAP2000 v17.3.0 RMS 8.6, the client machine will automatically pick up the SAP2000 v18 network license.

## Running SAP2000 v16 using a SAP2000 v17 license

When running [SAP2000](#) v16 using a [SAP2000](#) v17 license, the level.txt file created will contain one line with the following information:

- **Line 1: [Product Level] [Product Version]**

Product level should be the level of the current license, for example: 'BASIC', 'PLUS', 'ADVANCED' or 'ULTIMATE', etc. See [level.txt](#) for a list of levels for each CSI program. Product version should be the version number of the current license.

For example:

## ADVANCED 17

Please see your licensing option below for the appropriate locations for where the level.txt and activated license should reside:

- **Standalone license** –
  - **License file:** The SAP2000 v17 license must be activated on this machine. Copy the "lservrc" file from Computers and Structures > SAP2000 17 folder into the Computers and Structures > SAP2000 16 folder. The "lservrc" file must be copied each time the v17 license is activated on this machine. Once v17 has been deactivated from this machine, SAP2000 v16 will also stop working.
  - **Level.txt:** The level.txt file will also be copied into the SAP2000 16 folder (Computers and Structures > SAP2000 16)
- **Network license** – The SAP2000 v17 license will reside on the server for a [network license](#). The level.txt file will reside on the client machine, copied into the SAP2000 16 folder which contains the SAP2000.exe.

## Running SAP2000 v14 using a SAP2000 v15 license

When running [SAP2000 v14](#) using a [SAP2000 v15](#) Advanced license, the level.txt file created will contain the following two lines:

- **Line 1: Product Level.** Enter the level of the current license, for example: 'BASIC', 'PLUS', 'ADVANCED' or 'ULTIMATE', etc. See [level.txt](#) for a list of levels for each CSI program.
- **Line 2: Product Version.** Enter the version number of the current license, for example, '15'.

For example:

```
ADVANCED
15
```

Listed below are the installation and licensing combinations with the appropriate locations for where the level.txt and v15 "lservrc" file should reside:

- **Standalone installation with standalone license** – If running a standalone installation with a standalone license, the SAP2000 v15 "lservrc" file must be copied into the SAP2000 14 folder containing the SAP2000.exe. The level.txt file will also be copied into this same folder (SAP2000 14 folder).
- **Standalone installation with network license** – If running a standalone installation with a [network license](#), the level.txt file should be copied into the SAP2000 14 folder, containing the SAP2000.exe, on the client machine.
- **Workstation installation** – If the client machine has a workstation installation, then the level.txt file should be copied onto the server under the SAP2000 14 Server folder, which contains the SAP2000.exe.

To use SAP2000 V15 license to run SAP2000 V14 with the add-on module license (Bridge, Staged Construction, Off-Shore), the SAP2000 **V14.2.5** program installation and the SAP2000 V15 **Ultimate** license are required.

**NOTE:** The \*.ini file takes precedence over the level.txt file, therefore it may be best to leave the field for the program level blank in the \*.ini file.

## See Also

- [Expedite software launch](#)
- [level.txt](#)