

SPECIAL NOTES ABOUT NETWORKING TO SHARE DATA STORED ON A COMMON SERVER

3D Inspection System software may be networked so one computer acts as server for storing all the customizable data (files, forms, reports) that is accessed by additional computers or workstations running 3D Inspection System software. The information below will allow you and your qualified network administrator to network your program to share its data files.

LICENSING: If you are connecting more than two computers together, you will need to contact 3D Inspection System sales department to purchase additional licenses as needed. You will need one license for the machine acting as server and additional licenses for each workstation where you wish to use the 3D Inspection System software. 3D Inspection System's standard [EULA](#) allows installation of the 3D Inspection System software on only two such computers owned by the registered user. Additional licenses must be obtained for additional computers. 3D Inspection Systems reserves the right to deny support or other services to users who fail to purchase appropriate licenses for additional computers, or to pursue other legal options.

To network your 3D Inspection System data to share it in common, you will need to contact your qualified network administrator for assistance. The server must be able to run [SQL Express 2012](#), which is typically installed by the 3D software installation. A copy of the 3D Inspection System software must now be installed on the computer acting as the server, and on each workstation/user. Backups of data that includes the Office Management information can only be made when running locally on the machine acting as server. Since every network is different, 3D Inspection Systems cannot directly assist with the actual networking of the computers or troubleshooting network settings.

STEP A- SERVER SETUP:

After installing the 3D software on the server, right-click and run its icon as administrator to install driver and activation information. Note: The software purchaser may activate the program immediately, or choose to 'Activate Later' initially. If activating later, one must run as administrator again at the time of activation. Next:

- **If setting up a brand new copy** of the 3D Inspection System, choose "I'm a New User" and follow the wizard to enter basic company and inspector information. Note: Users may adjust the company and inspector information later using Maintain > Office Management Preferences in the software.
- **If you are transferring a version 12 database from another computer to the server**, (1) on the computer containing the existing SQL database and other data, use the 3D program option File > Backup All Files to create a 3DBackup.zip file and transfer that to the new server. (2) When launching 3D on the new server choose "I'm an Existing User" -> "Restore from a Backup" and choose the 3DBackup.zip from version 12 on the other computer, and select the desired items to restore. (Note: One may alternatively use the "I'm a New User" option to set up a dummy company, and later transfer existing version 12 data from another machine using the File > Backup/Restore options on the File menu of the software to replace the dummy company.)
- **If you are upgrading from an older version 11** series that was previously networked or already present on the machine, and need to convert the prior Office Management database, you will first need to install version 11.4 on the server directly. After launch, switch to the Report Writer. In the report writer use Preferences > Preferences, File locations to set the "Data" folder to the shared data folder location on that local drive where the existing data is present (the default location for data is Documents\3D Inspection System 11\ folder). Note that folder locations always need to use a real drive letter and folder path. Close and relaunch version 11.4 and verify that the Office Management information you wish to convert is present. Next uninstall 3D Inspection System 11 and install version 12 on the server. When version 12 is launched on the server, you may use the wizard option "I'm an Existing User" -> "Convert from version 11" to transfer the data into SQL there. Verify that version 12 on the server now contains all your data you wish to share.
- 3D Inspection System installation creates a "ThreeD" instance in the SQL database. e.g. If connecting via SQL Management Studio, the server name and instance would be the COMPUTERTNAME\THREED (the instance name should not be included in the Computer Name selected from the 3D Welcome wizard- only the

computer name itself)

- If your network is using Windows Authentication, the network administrator will need to install SQL Management Studio on the local machine (server) actually containing the database and add the other machines as users so they are in a proper domain.
- If your network is using TCP/IP with SQL Authentication, use sa:Inspect3D login credentials for connecting workstations.
- **IMPORTANT NOTE:** When connecting the server to its local database, we recommend either connecting using Windows Authentication or using "(local)" as the computer name with SQL Authentication, as using a specific computer name on the machine hosting the database may prevent it from updating to future versions of 3D as well as including the database in backups made from 3D on the local machine. You may opt to make backups separately in SQL.
- Note that when updating the program, we recommend installing any update on the machine hosting the database first, and then afterward update workstations. All computers should be updated to run the same version to ensure compatibility.
- Any questions regarding proper network or domain setup should be directed to an appropriate qualified IT technician or Microsoft. 3D Inspection Systems support would only be able to assist with setup on the local machine where the database is located, or advise regarding settings to use in 3D once a copy of SQL Management Studio on the workstation is able to connect properly to the database on the server.

Once the program is installed and working on the server, the network administrator will then need to make any workstation connections as needed.

STEP B - WORKSTATIONS:

After version 12 is running properly on the server, workstations may be set up: On each workstation, install version 12 and run as administrator initially to install the PDF driver (for new installs, the owner may activate each computer immediately or later).

Connect Office Management database: From the Welcome wizard options, choose "I'm an Existing User" -> "Connect to a Database". If the database is on another computer (server), use that option and select and enter the appropriate connection settings for your network setup (only the network administrator can assist with this). When you enter the Computer Name for the server, and appropriate connection options, the Select Database prompt will appear, allowing you to select the Database for the company name you set up there.

Troubleshooting tips, if the Company Name does not appear:

- Did you enter the Computer Name correctly? On the computer containing the database, verify the computer name by clicking Start, right-clicking Computer, and choosing Properties.
- If choosing the Computer Name and type of authentication does not display the Database from which to select the company, try connecting directly to the database using SQL Management Studio installed on the workstation. If you cannot connect SQL Management Studio to the database, then you will need to troubleshoot your network connections so that it can connect. Once SQL Management Studio can connect to the database, then you should be able to connect to it from 3D Inspection System software as well.

Connect to other Data files: After successfully connecting a copy of 3D Inspection System software running on a workstation to the SQL database stored on the server, one may next connect to other data used by the rest of the program (reports, forms, documents).

On the workstation, map an actual drive letter to the server computer where the other data files are stored (the default data file location is Documents\3D Inspection System 11\ in the user profile where the program is used or launched). The server drive **MUST** be mapped to a real drive letter and path on the workstation, because a Universal Naming Convention (UNC) path (i.e. \\server..) does not contain the standard drive letter nomenclature needed for windows to allow 3D to properly create temp folders and other program functions. Using a

mapped drive letter is the proper way to network applications, since unmapped drives may unexpectedly disappear sometimes in Windows, which could result in data corruption. If the drive is mapped properly you should be able to access that specific drive letter and folder containing your data from My Computer in the workstation. Note that since 3D Inspection System software needs to manipulate files to work (create directories, add/remove files, etc), you must set full privileges for the shared data folder. We recommend mapping a parent folder containing the actual 3D data folder, since Windows often restricts write privileges from the root location of a drive letter.

Once your data folder location is mapped to a real drive letter and folder name, on the workstation open the 3D Inspection System software and set its data location to the shared folder on the server containing the actual data, forms, documents, and reports. To do this, open the 3D Inspection System software, switch to the Report Writer, click Preferences > Preferences, File Locations tab. For "Location of data files: use the browse button to the right to navigate and select your data folder and accept the change (be sure to browser to the real mapped drive letter and folder path). Note that the "Location of user and temporary files" folder should remain set to a local location on the workstation. This setup allows the Office Management itself to connect to the SQL database on the server, the rest of the program to share the remaining data files in the common mapped "data" folder, and workstation specific files and settings and temporary folders more efficiently accessed locally. Finally, close and reopen 3D Inspection System to use the new data location.

If you need further assistance with networking, please consult with a local network specialist. You may also contact 3D Inspection System support, but you are responsible for making sure your basic network is working and that you have and know the mapped drive letter for your server drive and/or 3D Inspection System folder on the server, and that SQL Management Studio is able to connect to the SQL "ThreeD" database instance on the server from your workstation.

Note that your IT person or network administrator may prefer a separate backup routine for backing up SQL data on the server directly. Otherwise, if you want 3D Inspection System backups that are made within the program using the File > Backup All Files option to include the Office Management information stored in SQL, the backup MUST periodically be run directly from the copy of 3D Inspection System running on the server itself, as it can only access the SQL database for backup if "Local". Note that any backups done from within 3D Inspection System on a workstation would not include the Office Management information stored in SQL, but would only include the other custom data files used by the remainder of the program.

NOTE ABOUT TERMINAL SERVICES:

For remote access, note that 3D software was not designed to work on Terminal Services, and doing so for concurrent access of multiple users from the same computer is a violation of the EULA unless appropriate licensing has been obtained.

Note that Windows often treats separate user profiles similar to as if they were separate computers/installations, so windows installer may do a "repair" each time you switch user profiles on a particular computer. Thus logging into the same computer for different users would likely annoying or cause launch reconfiguration delays.

Terminal services may also have its own general issues, usually related to managing profiles. But unless you need concurrent access for multiple users, using just a single profile for any users who need to access 3D in the environment may work, so there's no messy switching back and forth users on the same computer. That way multiple users may use the software on the terminal when needed under the same computer profile, just not at the same time.

Otherwise for concurrent use of the program amongst multiple users, you could set up separate workstations or terminals for each user as needed (in accordance with the number of licenses purchased by the company- our software comes with a license for only 2 computers/terminals- additional licenses beyond that would need to be purchased.) Thus one might have each workstation or separate terminal share data stored on a server location in common. With such a setup, one would simply network the data folder and set up 3D on each workstation to access the shared data folder, with each using their own workstation for their own user profile and 3D

user/temp folder settings. Each workstation could in turn be accessed remotely from another location by means of Remote Desktop if need be, while leaving all the data intact in the centralized location.

Note though that for managing multiple inspectors, using the mobile Phone3D app to send and retrieve reports is often an easier solution without requiring additional licensing or networking.