

CodeMeter License Central

CodeMeter License Central is a database-derived license entitlement application, which automates the process of creating, delivering, and managing licenses for software and digital content for Independent Software Vendors (ISV).

Multiple scenarios

Licensing systems like CodeMeter offer comprehensive licensing opportunities. The ISV can choose between PC-bound licenses, dongle-based licenses, network-based licenses, cloud-based licenses, or any combination thereof. Typically, each of these license repositories needs a specific handling during creation, delivery, and management.

There are many different possible use cases and conditions in licensing. The ISV could ship his software with a dongle. The ISV could sell an additional module to an existing user. The ISV could offer an online activation modality to the user. The user could permanently be offline and have no means to access an online activation process. The user might have to move a license from one computer to another. The computer with a PC-bound license might crash forcing the restoration of the license.

Similarly, there are many alternatives for creating licenses. A back office employee could enter an order in an ERP system, like a SAP- or SAGE-based one. An order could be triggered through an e-commerce platform, like those provided by Avangate, Cleverbridge, Digital River, or element 5. The ISV's website could offer the user the opportunity to request a trial version. An entitlement could be generated in a CRM system, such as Salesforce.

A dynamic solution

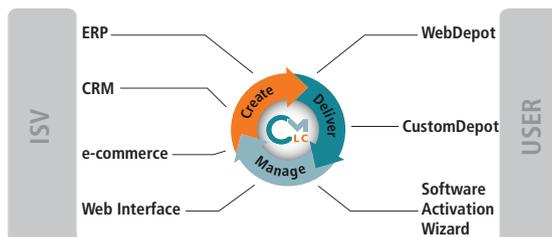
CodeMeter License Central offers a single system that is able to handle all license repositories. CodeMeter License Central streamlines the license delivery process seamlessly regardless of the license repository. When the ISV entitles a license, CodeMeter License Central creates a ticket (a 25-character alphanumeric sequence, for example ZJY3G-YJK5J-MD4US-GRQP5-64W8C). The ISV defines the license repository and creates the licenses during the entitlement process. The ISV also sets how often a ticket can be used. Licenses can be associated with any license model, i.e. single user license, floating network license, perpetual license, time-based license, pay-per-use license, or modular license. The ISV simply delivers the ticket to the user, electronically via email, or in printed form as a delivery notice or a license certificate. The user selects the license repository that best fits his scenario among those that were defined by the ISV: a secure hardware device, a CmDongle, or a secure file, a CmActLicense, or a license server in the cloud, a CmCloudLicense, or in the local network. Then, making use of his ticket, the user transfers the license to this repository.



CodeMeter License Central supports all use cases of license delivery as well as all online and offline conditions. During the activation

process, a fingerprint (Wibu CodeMeter Remote Activation Context File – WibuCmRaC) of the chosen computer, dongle, or server, is generated. This fingerprint and the ticket are transferred to CodeMeter License Central. CodeMeter License Central generates a license file (Wibu CodeMeter Remote Activation Update File – WibuCmRaU) and returns it to the user. This license file is imported, and the license is activated. In case of an online activation, all these steps are performed transparently in the background. The user selects the destination of the license, enters his ticket, and clicks "Activate Now" from the activation wizard. In case of an offline activation, both files (fingerprint and license file) can be transferred using any offline method. A portal (WebDepot) can be used to give an overview of the available and activated licenses. WebDepot also offers online and offline activation and can be integrated into existing user portals.

CodeMeter License Central offers interfaces to many ERP, CRM, and e-commerce systems. CodeMeter License Central becomes the central turnkey for managing all licenses and entitlements through the use of SOAP-based interface connectors available for all business transactions. After creating an order in the ERP, CRM, or e-commerce system, the order is transferred to CodeMeter License Central. CodeMeter License Central verifies the validity of the order parameters, and entitles a ticket.



Available Editions

CodeMeter License Central is available in five different Editions and one package:

- **Desktop Edition:** On-site basic edition.
- **Internet Edition:** On-site edition with all interfaces, customizable WebDepot and Internet gateways.
- **Datacenter Edition:** Basic cloud-based edition, with e-commerce connectors, customizable WebDepot, and Internet gateways.
- **Dedicated Server Edition:** Cloud-based edition, with all interfaces, e-commerce connectors, customizable WebDepot, and Internet gateways.
- **High Performance Edition:** Cloud-based edition, with all interfaces, e-commerce connectors, customizable WebDepot, and Internet gateways. For up to 25,000 activations per day.
- **High Availability Package:** Load balancing service and two lines of High Performance Edition.

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Features at a Glance

Support of CmDongles

CodeMeter License Central supports the generation and updating of all license models for CmDongles - CmSticks, CmASICs and CmCards.

Support of CmActLicenses

CodeMeter License Central supports the generation and updating for PC-bound licenses (CmActLicenses) utilizing binding options such as SmartBind® and binding extension.

Web-based Interface for ISVs

CodeMeter License Central is accessed via common browsers like Microsoft Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome and Apple Safari to generate and manage licenses.

Role-based Login

CodeMeter License Central supports various user roles such as Product Manager, Support Manager, Sales User, and Report User as well as administrative roles.

Dynamic Parameters

Articles can be configured with static or dynamic parameters. The latter can be overwritten either when the order is created or when the license is activated.

Gateway to Software Activation Wizard

CodeMeter License Central provides a Gateway to a Software Activation Wizard where the user enters the Ticket. The wizard communicates with the Gateway to activate the license online transparently. Samples for the Software Activation Wizard are available in C#, C/C++, Delphi and Objective-C. The ISV can modify the wizard to accommodate his own corporate design.

WebDepot for Users

With WebDepot, CodeMeter License Central provides the user with a ready-to-use web portal as an option to the Gateway and Software Activation Wizard. The user enters the tickets and immediately obtains an overview of the activated and available licenses. WebDepot supports license activation, license deactivation and license restore. Each option is available as online transfer, using WebSockets, Java, or ActiveX, and as offline transfer, uploading and downloading files. The ISV can customize WebDepot to adjust it to his corporate design.

CustomDepot for Users

CustomDepot is an extendable version of WebDepot. It can be integrated into existing portal solutions or used as a standalone solution. It includes many optional functionalities like: user login, user license overview, user registration, software registration, ticket registration, and generating trial licenses.

Connector to e-commerce, CRM or ERP

A Connector is an interface, which imports an Order and returns a Ticket to the caller. It can be used for automatic license generation from e-commerce, CRM, or ERP systems like Digital River, Salesforce, or SAP.

There are standard Connectors available from CodeMeter License Central, which support existing export and web services interfaces for common business systems such as e-commerce, CRM or ERP

systems. There is a generic Connector available which offers a HTTP/POST, SOAP, and a JSON interface. The Connector interface also includes Order-defined parameters. Connectors can also be adapted to other interfaces as well.

Web Service Interface

All CodeMeter License Central capabilities are based on web services. The ISV can develop his own local or web-based graphic user interface (GUI) or automatic background interface to match his own requirements and business processes.

CodeMeter License Central can be extended by an individual add-on, which acts as middleware between CodeMeter License Central web services and the application. Samples are a Connector which creates Items on demand during the import of the Order, or an extension which assigns Tickets to CmDongle Serial Numbers.

Electronic License Delivery

CodeMeter License Central can generate licenses and deliver them as a Remote Update File. In cases of online activation, the Remote Update File is applied transparently in the background.

Electronic Software Delivery

The Electronic Software Delivery add-on manages binaries (product installer files etc.) for license items in CodeMeter License Central. The ISV assigns binaries to items and the user can download new binaries matching the owned licenses. Also "order-defined parameters" like Maintenance Period are available and the ISV can use this functionality to integrate an automatic check for updates into his or her software.

Update Push Service

Utilizing an Update Push Service add-on, a CmDongle previously programmed can be updated without the need of requesting a Remote Context File. The ISV simply selects a CmDongle, generates a Remote Update File and delivers it to the user.

Event Notification Service

The Event Notification Service is one of the most powerful add-ons of CodeMeter License Central. It is used to send a notification as HTTP/POST, SOAP, JSON, export file, or email as soon as an event occurs. This service can be used for example to send activation information back to a CRM system or individual reports to a mailing list.

Entitlement Reporting

The reporting feature of CodeMeter License Central lists all entitlement information such as: customers, licenses, orders and CmContainers. There is a detail page for each entry in the search result list. The search includes standard criteria like Expiration Time or Maintenance Period. All reports can be exported as CSV files for import into Excel or similar.

Features at a Glance

Reseller Integration

The Reseller Integration module is a highly customizable add-on for CodeMeter License Central. The integration strongly depends on the existing systems and processes. The ISV can decide if a reseller can create Tickets or only re-distributes Tickets.

In both cases all available licenses are stored and managed in CodeMeter License Central. Resellers can get a bulk Ticket and generate single Tickets for each included license. A reseller can see an overview of the own Tickets.

High Availability Installation

CodeMeter License Central is designed to run in multiple lines. Each line has its own application server and web server. All lines communicate with a database in a cluster. A load balancing system at the entry point distributes the traffic equally to the available lines. If one line fails, another line takes over automatically. Each line needs to be licensed separately.

Test Installation / Q-System

Using a test installation, errors during production can be reproduced and new license metrics can be tested without influence on the production environment. A test line needs to be licensed separately.

Developer Installation / D-System

ISVs who develop their own CodeMeter License Central add-on using the web services use an additional line for development purposes. A development line needs to be licensed separately.

Ready to Use VMware Appliance

CodeMeter License Central runs in a ready-to-use VMware appliance. The appliance already includes all pre-requirements like database, application server and web server. A one-step installer installs CodeMeter License Central into this appliance. Requirements to run this are: VMware Server, VMware Workstation or VMware Player, 20 GB free disk space, 2 GB RAM and a CPU with 2 GHz or higher. USB or Ethernet access to the Firm Security Box (FSB) is required. The appliance can be converted to other virtualization tools.

Online License Activation

Licenses can be transferred directly from CodeMeter License Central to a CmDongle or CmActLicense via a Software Activation Wizard or a web browser.

Online License Deactivation

Licenses can be returned to CodeMeter License Central online. The Ticket can be retrieved and utilized again. This allows the user to move a license to a different CmDongle or CmActLicense, according to the rules defined by the ISV.

Offline License Activation

Licenses can be transferred offline using file-based activation. First the user generates a Remote Context File and then CodeMeter License Central uses this file to generate a Remote Update File, which can only be used with the selected CmDongle or CmActLicense.

Offline License Deactivation

Licenses can be returned offline. The user generates a Remote Context File, which includes the license to be removed. CodeMeter License Central generates a Remote Update File, which removes the license. The user generates a receipt, which confirms the removal of the license. After the confirmation the license can be activated again.

Legacy Data Import

Existing activation information can be imported via an import module. This allows the ISV to import all legacy data, CodeMeter related and also 3rd-party related information. This data can be used for defining update paths and issuing maintenance renewals.

Automatic License Restore

In case of lost licenses, new licenses can be entitled. The ISV defines rules for automatic re-hosting such as number of re-activations or re-activations after a defined time period. A user with the role Support can override this setting and grant more re-activations if required.

Automatic Container Restore

CodeMeter License Central provides an option to restore an entire CmActLicense container, in the event the computer with the container was re-formatted. The ISV defines tolerance options and rules for such restore action.

Blacklisting of Lost Licenses

Re-activated licenses can automatically be added to a Blacklist. There are three ways for the ISV to check this Blacklist: The ISV exports the Blacklist and integrates it into his new release, the ISV implements an online check against the Blacklist in his or her software and CodeMeter License Central automatically checks this Blacklist during any activation.

Activations per Month

Each activation process is a cryptographic operation that requires hardware resources. The hosted editions of CodeMeter License Central are each designed for a specific threshold in the volume of activations per month. A permanent threshold excess requires an upgrade to the next edition, or the addition of more lines.

Number of Lines / Load Balancing

With more than 25,000 activations per month, an installation with multiple lines is recommended. A load balancing service distributes the incoming requests among the available lines. Hereby both load balancing and overall system availability are ensured, even should an individual line be disconnected for maintenance purposes. The High Availability Package contains the load balancing service and two High Performance Editions, and can be extended to include additional High Performance Editions.

Supported Databases

CodeMeter License Central Internet Edition can be operated using an external database. The database can be operated in a cluster to increase availability and performance. Supported databases are MySQL, MSSQL, and Oracle.

Edition Comparison Matrix

Feature	Desktop Edition	Interne Edition	Datacenter Edition	Dedicated Server	High Performance Edition	High Availability Package
Support of CmDongles	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Support of CmActLicenses	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Web-based Interface for ISVs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Role-based Login	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dynamic Parameters	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gateway to Software Activation Wizard	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
WebDepot for Users	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
CustomDepot for Users	-	Addon	-	Addon	Addon	Addon
Connector to e-commerce, CRM or ERP	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Web Service Interface	-	Yes	-	Yes	Yes	Yes
Electronic License Delivery	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Electronic Software Delivery	-	Addon	Addon	Addon	Addon	Addon
Update Push Service	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Event Notification Service	-	Addon	-	Addon	Addon	Addon
Entitlement Reporting	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Reseller Integration	-	Addon	-	Addon	Addon	Addon
High Availability Installation	-	Addon	-	Addon	Addon	Addon
Test Installation / Q-System	-	Addon	Addon	Addon	Addon	Addon
Developer Installation / D-System	-	Addon	-	Addon	Addon	Addon
Ready to Use VMware Appliance	Yes	Yes	SaaS	SaaS	SaaS	SaaS
Online License Activation	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Online License Deactivation	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Offline License Activation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Offline License Deactivation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Legacy Data Import	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Automatic License Restore	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Automatic Container Restore	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Blacklisting of Lost Licenses	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Activations per Month	-	-	1,500	3,000	25,000	50,000
Number of Lines	-	-	1	1	1	2
Load Balancing	-	-	-	-	-	Yes
Supported Databases	MySQL	MySQL, MSSQL, Oracle	SaaS	SaaS	SaaS	SaaS
Article Number	1331-03	1332-03	6600-01	6610-01	6611-01	6612-01