

# Minitab ™

## License Borrowing for Minitab Products

### What is Borrowing?

Borrowing creates a portable license dedicated to a specific user on a specific machine. When you borrow a license for a Minitab multi-user product, you reduce the available user count on your network by one. The advantages of borrowing include:

- Portability—After the license is borrowed, the user no longer needs to be connected to the network to use the product.
- Simplicity—Unlike stand-alone installations, borrowing does not require an individual LIC file, or installation of the Minitab License Manager application on each machine. (If already present, you should uninstall the Minitab License Manager application.)
- Flexibility—Unlike a dedicated LIC file, you can return a borrowed license at any time and make it available to other users on the network. Borrowed licenses are returned automatically at the end of the specified borrowing period.

Note: A borrowed license is only valid for the specified user on the specified machine.

### Requirements

To borrow a license for a Minitab multi-user product:

- If the Minitab License Manager application is currently installed on the user's machine, you should uninstall it before borrowing a license.
- A borrow-enabled license must be available on your network. To create a borrow-enabled license, contact your company's Minitab License Coordinator. For information on installing the Minitab License Manager or updating a license file on your network, see the appropriate Multi-User Install Guide at <http://www.minitab.com/support/documentation/>
- The desired computer must be able to communicate with the machine hosting the licenses prior to borrowing a license. You may want to try launching the product to ensure it is connected to the license server.

## To Borrow a License

1. Click [BorrowPackage.exe](#) to download and extract the borrow.exe utility and supporting files on your machine. The files will be extracted to a folder named Borrow within the same folder that you saved the *BorrowPackage.exe*. Note that *borrow.exe* must be accompanied by the supporting files to work properly.
2. While logged onto the desired machine using the intended user's profile, either:
  - a) Run borrow.exe by double-clicking it in Windows Explorer and using the Graphical User Interface.
  - b) Use the Command Prompt to run borrow.exe with the following syntax:

```
borrow.exe product end_date
```

### *Where*

product = minitab or qualitycompanion (one word, no space)

end\_date = date the borrowed license will be returned automatically.

Notes: The date must be in the format dd-mmm-yyyy, where dd is the 2-digit day, mmm is the 3-letter *English* abbreviation for the month, and yyyy is the 4-digit year.

When you use the keyword MAX for end\_date, the license will be borrowed to the expiration of the license (or the maximum term allowed by your administrator).

To run the command line utility silently, add a /q switch to the end of the command.

Example: borrow.exe minitab MAX /q

## To Return a License

To return a license before the end of the borrowing period, you can use the Graphical User Interface or use the following command:

```
borrow.exe -return product
```

### *Where*

product = minitab or qualitycompanion (one word, no space)

## To Check Borrowing Status

Borrowing status is provided in the Graphical User Interface. Alternately, you can run the following command while logged onto the desired machine using the intended user's profile:

```
borrow.exe -status
```

## To Extend the Borrowing Period

To extend the borrowing period, simply select a different date in the Graphical User Interface or run the borrow.exe command again, specifying the new end\_date.

## Common problems

Common problems that can prevent successful borrowing include:

- The product name is misspelled. Use either minitab or qualitycompanion (one word, no space).
- The date format is incorrect. The date must be in dd-mmm-yyyy format. The month must be one of the following English abbreviations: jan, feb, mar, apr, may, jun, jul, aug, sep, oct, nov, dec.
- The borrow period exceeds the expiration of the license on the server.
- The available user count on the server is zero.
- The desired application is not installed on the user's machine.