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Automated Deployment of QuickOPC License

Introduction

Proper license (for runtime usage) must be installed on the target computer (the computer where the product will be running).

The standard method for installing the QuickOPC license on runtime machines is manual: The user runs the License Manager utility, and installs the license by pointing the program to the license file stored on the disk.

This document describes how to automate the above procedure so that the user does not have to interact with the License Manager utility.

The remainder of the document below assumes that you are using a QuickOPC version that starts with "5.3". If you are using a different version, you need to replace the digits in "5.3" by the actual major version number, and the first digit of the minor version number.

License Store

The license is stored in the registry, under the following key:

HKEY LOCAL MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Licensing\QuickOPC 5.3\Multipurpose

In order to install the license, this key and anything that is beneath it, must be properly deployed to the target machine.

Note: On 64-bit systems, the license is stored in 32-bit registry. When the registry is accessed from 64-bit application, you must use the following key instead:

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Wow6432Node\Licensing\QuickOPC 5.3\Multipurpose

On 64-bit systems, if QuickOPC is used from both 32-bit and 64-bit processes, you have to install the license into both 32-bit and 64-bit part of the registry.

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Deployment Automation

In order to automate the installation of the license, you first need to obtain the proper registry content that corresponds to it.

Use the License Manager utility on the development computer, and install the license you intend to distribute. Then, start the REGEDIT utility, navigate to the registry key for the license, select it, and perform File -> Export command. You will obtain a registration file (with .REG extension) that contains the license information.

Your installation program can then use this information in various ways. For example, it can invoke the REGEDIT utility, and pass it the name of the generated .REG file on the command line. Alternatively, you can use other methods that your installation program provides for manipulating the registry, and simply have it replicate the information contained in the .REG file to the target system.

The license must not be modified in any way. Changing any of its fields (such as the Subject name) will render the license invalid.

Note: Take care on 64-bit systems, as both 32-bit and 64-bit REGEDIT applications exist, and each has a different view of the registry.