

NiceLabel Network White Paper

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Index

1	NiceLabel Network Overview	3
2	Inside NiceLabel Network	5
2.1	Requirements and Installing (server and workstation).....	5
2.2	Licensing NiceLabel software.....	5
2.3	Offline mode	6
2.4	Network traffic.....	6

1 NiceLabel Network Overview

NiceLabel Suite Network is a complete software solution for any type of label design and print requirements. It is functionally equivalent to NiceLabel Suite version with additional support for client/server technology. It includes NiceLabel Pro and the additional applications from the Suite: NiceForm, NiceWatch, NiceMemMaster and NiceData.

Upon request Network version is also available with Windows CE or Linux support. These two options are print-only native solutions for these operating systems.

Network version is most suitable for deployment in enterprise environments where it is very hard if not impossible to use classic hardware keys (dongles) for licensing. Network version is registered with a serial number. This is one-time procedure and can be accomplished on the internet. Another benefit of Network version are shared label/form/database/graphics files directly on the server accessible to all valid users.

The benefits of Network version:

Cost effective

Compared to normal NiceLabel Suite, the cost of ownership for Network client is much lower than ordinary stand-alone version.

Shared files on the server

All files the users are dealing with are shared on the server. The labels, databases, forms, stocks, graphics and other files are accessible to all NiceLabel users. There is no need to keep a local copy of these files. File maintenance --including backup-- is simplified.

The users also share a common printing log file and list of users if NiceLabel user management is enabled.

Registration number instead of hardware key (dongle)

Not like with the stand-alone versions of NiceLabel software the users do not have to attach hardware keys to their computers identifying the legal status of NiceLabel applications.

NiceLabel Suite Network is activated with a registration procedure. You can perform it on the internet or by contacting your NiceLabel vendor. Internet registration is fast and recommended choice.

Be careful when registering the software. The same serial number can be used only once, so make sure that you server version of NiceLabel software is installed to the proper server. Do not register the test installation of NiceLabel software.

Use NiceLabel from anywhere

You are not limited to using NiceLabel Suite Network in one LAN or one particular domain. Server version will accept connections from anywhere as long as the server computer is accessible from the client computer (NiceLabel shared folder on the server has to be visible to the clients).

More installation of the clients as there are licenses

You can have as many NiceLabel clients installed in your network as you want, but simultaneously could be used only as many as you have licenses. For example, with 5-user version, you have installed NiceLabel client to 10 computers. The first five users will be able to run NiceLabel software and the sixth user will have to wait for one of the existing one to close his NiceLabel software.

Off-line mode

For a short period of time NiceLabel Suite Network clients can be put to off-line mode enabling uninterrupted operations even if the connection to the server has been broken.

Automated upgrade procedure

When you decide to upgrade NiceLabel Suite Server on the server to the latest version, the installation will be performed straightforward, all existing design files will be preserved. When you attempt to upgrade, the install program will detect the previous version, uninstall it and then install the new one. The license information will remain on the system.

The clients verify the version of software on the server each run and they will get upgraded automatically if there is a new version on the server.

Functionally compatible with stand-alone version

Every client computer operates as a single stand-alone version and has the same functionality (the same printing capabilities, the same ActiveX interface, the same import/export etc.)

Compliant with Terminal Services and Citrix Metaframe

NiceLabel Suite Network version can be used in Windows Terminal Services and Citrix Metaframe environments.

For more information please refer to the White Paper **Using NiceLabel software with Windows 2000 Terminal Services and Citrix Metaframe** available on NiceLabel website.

2 Inside NiceLabel Network

2.1 Requirements and Installing (server and workstation)

Installation of NiceLabel Network consists out of three steps.

The first step is the installation of NiceLabel Network to the server. This can be done locally on the server itself (if it has installed Windows operating system) or remotely from any workstation that can access server disk shares in read/write mode. The server computer can run any operating system (Windows, Unix, Novell, etc.) as long as it is visible in the Network Neighbourhood of the client computers. This server is used to store NiceLabel system files and share them to the clients, there is no special program running on it.

When the server installation is complete, you can start installing the NiceLabel clients from the server to the individual workstations. This is done by running an installation executable. You can install NiceLabel client on as many computer as you want, there is no limitation in the number of workstations. But not all of them can be used at the same time. Only as many users as there are available licenses will be allowed to use NiceLabel software concurrently. Any additional user trying to use NiceLabel will have to wait for one of the connected users to log off.

Once the program has been installed on the server, it is not yet enabled and ready for work. First you will have to activate it by entering the serial number. The software is now in Trial mode. Network version is operational, but is enabled for only three simultaneously connected users for duration of one month. During these 31 days you have the opportunity to finish the registration process. Registration can be performed on the internet or via your NiceLabel vendor.

The summary of the three necessary registration steps.

- 1 First enable trial mode (31-days 3-user version) by entering the Registration Number to License Manager program. You have 31 days to complete the registration.
- 2 Acquire the Registration Code from the form on the internet or from your software vendor.
- 3 Use the Registration Code to register the software in the License Manager. Limitations of Trial mode will no longer be applied and software will be fully functional.

2.2 Licensing NiceLabel software

Standalone versions of NiceLabel software are equipped with hardware protection key (dongle). The computers where the key is attached can print the labels. If the key is not installed, NiceLabel software will run in DEMO mode.

Hardware key is not an ideal solution for large enterprise label printing process. With NiceLabel Suite Network version there aren't any hardware keys provided. This version of NiceLabel software has integrated a protection with a serial number. Server part of NiceLabel software installed on the server computer has a set of licenses available to the client computers.

When NiceLabel client is run, it will occupy its license on the server and the pool of available licenses will be reduced by one. When the user logs off, the license is returned and can be re-used some other time with this or any other connected user.

NiceLabel Suite Network client can be installed on as many computers as you like. There is no limitation to the number of installed clients. But not all of them will be able to function. When you have reached the maximum number of licenses available on the server any concurrent client will not be able to run. The user will have to wait for one of the already connected clients to disconnect and release its license. When the license is freed, another user can log on.

To verify which users are currently connected to NiceLabel server the utility **License Manager** has been provided. It is used to register the software (this is one-time operation) and to monitor connected users. It will also provide you with the number of used and the number of available licenses on the server. Please note that License Manager occupies one client license on its own. Even if you do not have NiceLabel running, one license will be occupied as soon as you start License Manager.

2.3 Offline mode

Constant connection is required to the NiceLabel server computer. It is not enough to have the client connected to the network only when NiceLabel is run, but it should be there at all times. However, there is a function **offline mode** available in NiceLabel software.

When the client is set to offline mode, it can be run autonomously without connection to the NiceLabel server for a few days. NiceLabel software will make a backup copy of necessary system files, but you will have to make sure that you make a local copy of the labels, forms and other files you will need.

This mode is great for a laptop computer that does not have a constant connection to the network or for mobile users that are not stationed on the same place. If NiceLabel client is set to offline mode, it will occupy the license for as long as it is in the offline mode.

2.4 Network traffic

NiceLabel client software can be installed on the client computer or can be run directly from the server. In the latter case only the necessary system files are installed on the local computer to minimize disk space utilization. When NiceLabel is run from the server, all necessary files and libraries therefore have to be transferred to the RAM of the local computer before NiceLabel can start. This is one-time operation before each start. At start NiceLabel software will load only the vital components. If you will design your label in a way to implement advanced functionality as VB scripting, functions etc the necessary libraries will be loaded to the client computer at that time.

The other option is to install NiceLabel client on the local computer. If your network infrastructure is slow and you want to minimize the amount of traffic caused by NiceLabel software, this is the preferred choice. This way the communication to the server will only be required when the license is verified and to access common NiceLabel shared server files (log files, global variables, user management).

Locally installed clients will have the lowest impact on your network traffic. This is the preferred choice and is offered as the default during the installation.