

Networks FAQ

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Q: What is the best way to install 2Simple software on a network?

Q: Once the software is deployed across a network, is there anything else that needs to be done?

Q: How do I copy 2Simple settings across a network?

Q: How do I install 2Simple software on a Mac?

Q: What is the best way to install 2Simple software on a network?

A: There are a number of different methods to install 2Simple software on a Windows network:

1) Deploying the MSI using Group Policy

http://support.2simpleweb.com/public/docs/networks/2Simple_GPO_installs.pdf

This is our recommended method in most cases. It results in a local install on each workstation which can be managed centrally. You do not need to go to each machine to install the software. All 2Simple software installations are available as MSIs (some older CDs may not have the MSI install included, in which case you can contact us for a download.) Some technical knowledge is required, however, and it may be a daunting process if you have not tackled it previously. You will need a Windows 2000 or above domain architecture, with 2000+ clients. If you have not used GPO before, you may have general issues with your Active Directory setup which might need to be addressed first. Note that for some 2Simple programs, installing *on the server only*, rather than using GPO, may be preferable. This is because some programs use a shared area on the network and if you installed the software on each machine you would need to set up a link to that shared area on each machine (which is of course possible, but can take time) whereas if you installed the software on the server only, you would only need to set up the link to the shared area once. This comment is applicable to: 2Assess, 2Email and 2Review (also possibly 2Investigate and 2Connect if you want to make use of the collaborative aspects of these programs.)

2) Installing on the server only

http://support.2simpleweb.com/public/docs/networks/2Simple_Server_installs.pdf

This method is possible for most 2Simple programs, and has a number of advantages and disadvantages compared to other methods

Advantages:

1. Settings can be configured centrally – this is especially useful for programs such as 2Assess, 2Email and 2Review which use a shared area on the network, but is also applicable to most other 2Simple program settings.
2. Easier to upgrade to later versions.
3. Disk space not used on local workstations.

Disadvantages:

1. If computers are disconnected from the network, the s/w will not be available.
2. There are a number of special cases and extra steps involved – this can take time.
3. Some files still need to be installed locally on each workstation, such as dlls.
4. Possible strain on the server and network – this can affect performance.

3) Installing locally each computer

Choose this if options 1 and 2 are not possible. Insert the CD into each computer, and the installation menu should launch automatically.

4) Thin Clients / Terminal Server / Citrix

http://support.2simpleweb.com/public/docs/networks/2Simple_ThinClient_installs.pdf

5) RM CC3 / CC4

http://support.2simpleweb.com/public/docs/networks/2Simple_CC3CC4_installs.pdf

We make CC3 & CC4 MSIs for all our programs. These are available free of charge.

6) Ranger / CSE networks

Ranger and CSE networks provide ways to package programs using the before-and-after snapshot method. It is possible to repackage 2Simple installs using this method to create a custom package which will deploy on these networks. However bear in mind that it is also possible to use a standard GPO deployment on these networks. We recommend the GPO method because it does not require repackaging of the installation and can still be managed centrally.

7) Ergo Free2Teach

Ergo provide the facility to create installation packages themselves for schools – please contact them for more information. It is still possible to use standard GPO deployment on Free2Teach networks, but Ergo do not recommend this; if this method is used and problems occur, this is not covered by their support agreement.

Q: Once the software is deployed across a network, is there anything else that needs to be done?

A: Some 2Simple programs require a shared area on the network to best use of the program. See:

http://support.2simpleweb.com/public/docs/networks/2Simple_Shared_Areas.pdf

Q: How do I copy 2Simple settings across a network?

http://support.2simpleweb.com/public/docs/networks/2Simple_Copying_Settings.pdf

Q: How do I install 2Simple software on a Mac?

http://support.2simpleweb.com/public/docs/networks/2Simple_Mac_installs.pdf

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