Waves Central is a utility used to install, manage, and update your Waves software products and licenses. You can install new products, move and deactivate licenses, install legacy software, and install to offline devices.

The first part of this guide tells you how to use each page. The second part tells you how to perform specific tasks.
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Waves Central can be downloaded [here](#).
General Page Layout

Whether you are installing plugins or managing licenses, the process is always the same: select one or more products from the list in the center section and carry out the action in the right panel.
Install Products

Use the Install Products page to install Waves products—including demos—and activate their licenses.

Waves software products consist of two elements: the software and the license. Software is installed to your computer’s main drive. Licenses can be activated to your computer or to an external USB flash drive. You can install software even if you don’t have an available license on your Cloud.

To Install Products

- Select products from My Products or All Products, or both. You can search for products by clicking on the search icon at the top of the page.
- Your selections will appear in the Summary list on the right. Review and edit the list of products you wish to install.
- If there are licenses to activate, choose the device where you want to send them (your HD or a USB flash drive).
- Click Install to install the selected products. If there are licenses to be activated, you will see Install and Activate.
Manage Licenses

Use the Licenses page to activate, move, deactivate, or recover a license.
Click the down arrow to expand the list.

My License Cloud
Activate licenses from your cloud
- Select your products.
- Click Activate (default).
The selected license is activated to your main HD and is ready to use if the corresponding software is installed. When a license has been activated on a device, it will no longer appear in your cloud.

Connected Devices
Move licenses
- Select your products
- Select Target Device. "Send to Cloud" deactivates license and returns it to your cloud. You can also activate the license to another device.
- Click Activate/Deactivate.

Disconnected Devices
Recover licenses
- Select products.
- Click Recover (default).
The selected license is sent back to your cloud or to another connected device.
Create / Run an Offline Installer

There are times when you must install software and activate licenses to a computer that is not connected to the internet, such as at live venues. This requires that you create an offline installer on an internet-connected computer, and then install to the other device. This is done with the Offline Installer page. An offline installer is also helpful when you want to install legacy versions or install the same software to several computers.

Create an Offline Installer

- Click **Create**.
- Select the products for your offline installer.
- Choose where you want to place the installer (usually a USB flash drive).
- Set platform (Mac or Windows).
- Click **Create**. Once completed, your offline installer is ready to use.

Install from an Offline Installer

- Click **Browse**.
- Select the offline installer
- Click **Install**. Once completed, your products are installed on your main HD (product licenses are not activated).
Settings
The Settings page is used to set default file locations and to clean up your Waves files.

Support
The Support page provides instant help links that address questions about installing, managing, and updating your Waves products. This is also where you find software versions information, which are needed if you contact Waves technical support.
Waves Central, Step-by-Step

Installing Products

Waves software products are made up of two parts: the audio processing software and the licenses that allow the software to operate. The Install Products page installs the latest software version to the main drive of your computer and activates your license to your computer or to a USB flash drive. If you do not have a license for V10 and/or V11 software, and you don’t wish to update now, refer to the Legacy Products page to learn about your options.

Basic Software Installation and License Activation (New Products and Updates)

A product must be registered before its license can be activated in Waves Central. Products purchased directly from Waves are registered automatically to your Waves account. If the software was purchased elsewhere, you’ll need to register it yourself by entering the serial number on your My Account page at Waves.com. The product will then appear in your account/license cloud. You can get the serial number from your Waves dealer.

1. Go to the Install Products page. This displays a list of your purchased plugins, both V11 and V10, and their install status.
   • To view only the products for which you hold a license, select the My Products tab.
   • Select the All Products tab to view all Waves products in the versions available for online installation. This enables you to install any product, even if you don’t hold a license for it. These products will not be available to the host until you connect a USB flash drive with the relevant licenses or activate a valid license on the host computer or USB drive.¹

2. Select the products you wish to install from either list. Review the selections in the Summary section on the right.
3. Use the Target Device for Licenses panel to select where you want to send the license. You can also choose not to activate the license by deselecting all target devices.
4. Click the Install button. If you’re activating licenses, the button will read Install and Activate.

Your products are now ready to use.

¹ This is useful when, for example, a studio prepares for a tracking or mixing session for an engineer who uses different Waves products than the studio has. The studio installs all the plugins that the engineer needs. When the engineer arrives, connect the USB flash drive and run the Version Organizer. There’s immediate access to the desired products—no need to install software at the last minute.
Updates

If the Updates Available button appears at the top of the screen, then free software updates are available for your existing software versions.

1. Click the Updates Available button. All products for which updates are available will be selected and shown in the list on the right. If you don’t want to continue with the update, hover over “Waves Updates” and click on the X.

2. When you’re ready, click Update. All Waves products that are already on your computer will be installed. An update does not affect your license, only the software.

If any of your products have V9 or older licenses, please read the important information below before you click Update.

The Install Products page updates software within its current version (i.e., V10, V11), but the license is not affected. You can continue to use the existing, updated products with their licenses. If, however, you install a new version, without getting a corresponding license, the products will not run.

If you are using older version licenses that are covered by the Waves Update Plan, you can update them to the latest license version in your Waves account.

If you are using older version license(s) that are not covered by the Waves Update Plan, you can renew your coverage in your Waves account. This provides up-to-date licenses, as well as other benefits. For more information visit: https://www.waves.com/support/update-to-latest-version

To continue using earlier versions, please read the next section, “Legacy Products.”
Legacy Products

If you don't want to use the Waves Update Plan to update your Waves license to the latest software version, you can manage your older products with the “Legacy Products” panel at the bottom of the screen. The Legacy Products button is displayed only when V9 licenses are in your account.

You cannot download V9 software products directly through Waves Central. Instead, choose among these links:

- **Download and Install Legacy Software** takes you to a Waves download page, where you can download a legacy software installer. Read the next section to learn how to install from an offline installer.
- **V9 Licenses** takes you to the licenses page, where you can manage V9, V10, and V10 licenses.
- **Update Legacy Licenses** takes you to the Waves support site, where you can renew your Waves Update Plan coverage and activate the latest software versions.

While it is technically possible to use a mix of products with different software versions (e.g., V9, V10, V11), we recommend that all of your products are the same version. This provides a more stable environment and makes it easier to diagnose conflicts between plugins and hosts.

If you have installed several versions and are experiencing issues after installation or activation (e.g., host not loading plugins or running the wrong version), run the Version Organizer in Settings>Maintenance > Version Organizer. This will align the plugin versions with the licenses and move unused plugins to a separate folder. This does not affect your license and you can continue to use each version.
Installing Legacy Products

Use an offline installer to install legacy software, install software to devices that are not connected to the internet, and easily install Waves on several computers.

Using a Waves Offline Installer for Legacy Software (Connected to the Internet)

1. Quit all host applications.
2. Download the Offline Installer for your legacy version at the Waves downloads page. Select the installer type: Mac or PC. This offline installer includes all Waves software products, not just the products for which you hold a license.
3. Unzip the folder to your desktop.
4. Launch Waves Central. If you don’t have the Waves Central application, go to the folder where you unzipped the offline installer and run Waves Central.app (Mac) or Waves Central.exe (PC).
5. Select Offline Installer on the left sidebar.
6. Under “Install From an Offline Installer,” click Browse.
7. Navigate to the offline installer and click Open.
8. Check that the products you wish to install are selected.
9. Click Install.
Installing Software Products on Devices Not Connected to the Internet

There are two common reasons for creating and installing from an offline installer without downloading each time.

1. You want to quickly install one or more software products to several devices.
2. You want to install software to a computer that is not connected to the internet, such as at live venues.

Part 1: Create an offline installer from Waves Central

Creating an offline installer requires a computer that’s connected to the internet.

1. In the Offline Installer page, click **Create**.
2. Select the software products that you wish include in the offline installer package.
3. Define the Offline Installer properties: target folder and file name. Default file locations:
   - PC: Desktop
   - Mac: /Users/user name/Public/Waves Offline Installers/
4. By default, an offline installer will be formatted in the same operating as the computer on which it is created. You can change the operating system of the offline installer (Mac or PC).
5. Click **Create an Installer**.
6. When finished, copy the new installer from your desktop to a USB flash drive in order to move it to an offline computer

Part 2: Install from an Offline Installer

Before you begin an offline installation, make sure you have activated licenses for the products you are installing. A license is not part of an offline installer—your activated license will usually be on a USB flash drive. You may choose to activate the license on the same flash drive as the offline installer. Unlicensed products will be installed, but you won’t be able to run them without their licenses.

Begin by connecting the offline installer USB flash drive to the target computer.

Option 1: Waves Central is not installed on the target computer

1. Open the folder where the offline installer is located.
2. Unzip the file called **Waves Central**. Copy this file to your hard drive and launch. This opens the same version of Central that was used to create the offline installer.

3. Follow the steps below.

Option 2: **Waves Central is installed and running on the target computer.**

1. Click **Browse**.
2. Browse to the desired offline installer.
3. Load the installer.
4. Select the products you wish to install.
5. Click **Install**.

You can, alternatively, drag the offline installer icon onto the Waves Central interface (Mac only).
**Using the Licenses Page**

This is where you manage your licenses. You do not need to use this page to perform a basic installation in the Install Products page, since licenses are activated when the software is installed.

Use the Licenses page to:

- Activate and move licenses from and to the License Cloud
- Move or activate a license to a USB device or another computer.
- Recover a license, typically from a device that has been broken, lost, or stolen.

**Activate a License From Your Account**

This procedure moves a license from your license cloud to your computer or an external drive.

1. Select the Licenses page.
2. Select **My License Cloud** at the top of the page. Use the arrow on the right to expand the list.
3. Choose the licenses you wish to activate. Selected licenses will appear in the list on the right.
4. Choose the target device for the activated license.
5. Click the **Activate** button.

The license is activated on the selected device and no longer appears on your cloud.

**Deactivate a License / Send a License Back to Your License Cloud**

You can deactivate a license and send it to your license cloud.

1. Select the Licenses tab.
2. Select **Connected Devices**. Use the arrow at the right to expand the list.
3. Choose the license you want to deactivate.
4. Select **Send to My License Cloud**.
5. Click the **Deactivate** button.

A deactivated license can remain in your license cloud indefinitely. Download it to a device whenever you want to reactivate it.
Move a License From a Device to a USB Flash Drive

This procedure moves licenses from one device to another using a USB flash drive as the go-between. First, move selected licenses on the source device to a USB flash drive.

1. Connect a USB flash drive to the computer that’s running Waves Central.
2. Select the Licenses tab.
3. Select Connected Devices and expand the license list. This is a list of the licenses located on this device.
4. Choose the licenses you want to move.
5. Select the USB flash drive as the target drive.
6. Click Activate.

If you connect this USB flash drive to another system that has other versions installed, you may encounter problems between the host and the plugins (e.g., host not recognizing the plugins, recognizing the wrong version, becoming unstable). This is likely the result of there being different versions of the same plugins in the plugins folder. Use the Version Organizer in Settings>Maintenance > Version Organizer. This searches for duplicate plugins, places the redundant ones in an Unused Plugins folder, and presents the host with the most current licensed version of each plugin. Repeat this procedure each time you take your USB flash licenses to a different studio.
Using a License on Another Account

If at times work in another studio that already has licensed Waves plugins installed, except for few that you’ll need for your session. Central lets you add your licensed plugins to the existing inventory on the studio’s computer.

1. Insert your USB flash drive in the computer at the studio where you will be working.
2. Log in to your Central account and go to the All Products tab of the Install Products page.
3. Select your licensed plugins that you want to use in addition to the studio’s inventory and install them in the studio computer. Do not activate any licenses, if given the option, since they already exist on your USB drive.
4. When the install is finished, Central will automatically run the Version Organizer to rule out duplicate copies of the same plugin. This is not destructive.
5. Launch your session. The studio’s plugins, along with yours, will load. You can use the studio’s plugins, but you can’t manage them in Central since you don’t own them. They are grayed out in the Connected Devices tab, as shown below.

![Image of Connected Devices tab showing licensed and other user's plugins]
Recover a License
If your computer fails, taking your licenses with it, or if you lose the USB flash drive, you can use the Disconnected Devices page to recover them.

1. Select the Licenses tab.
2. Select **Disconnected Devices**. Use the arrow on the right to expand the list.
3. Choose the license you want to recover. Select license destination. The default is your License Cloud.
4. Read the notice on the right and select **I Understand**.
5. Click **Recover** button. The default destination is your license cloud.

Note that each license can be recovered only once per year. If you later find or retrieve a device for which a license has been recovered, connect it to your computer and log on to Waves Central, the license recovery period (1 year) will automatically reset. In the event that a replaced license is found, transfer of ownership or sale of the found license is strictly prohibited. Violation of this policy will result in the revocation of license recovery privileges for the associated account.

Refresh Waves Central
If you don’t see a newly added product or license, click on the **Refresh** button next to the account name in the upper-right corner.