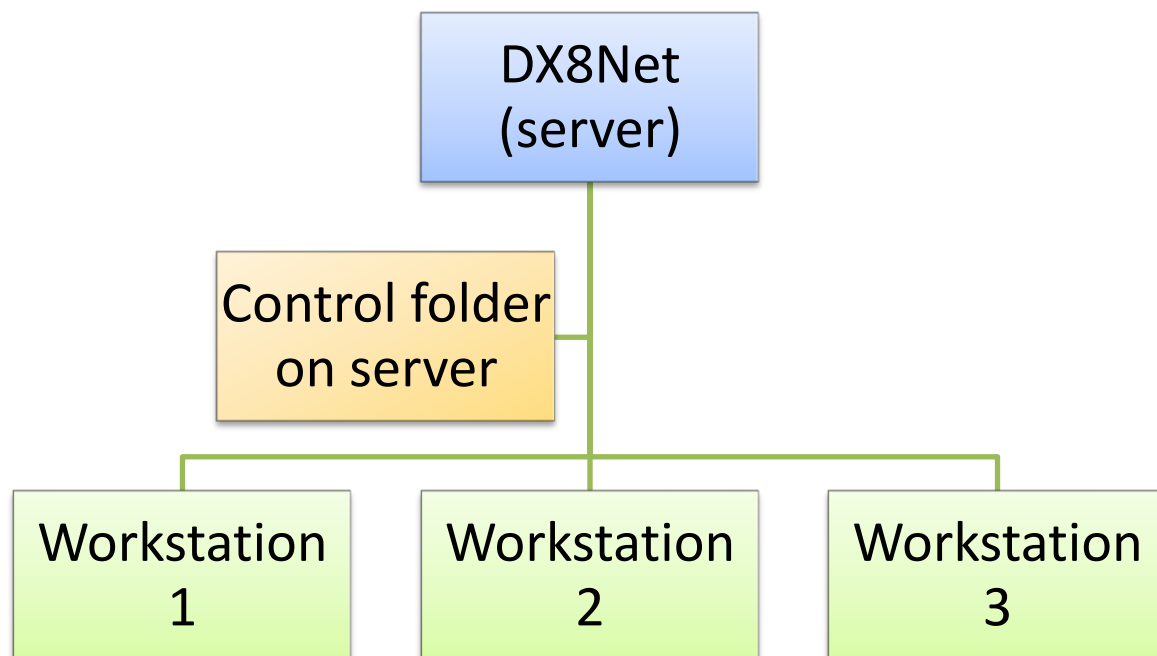


## Design-Expert 8 Network Overview

The network version of Design-Expert 8 has two principle components consisting of a server installation and a workstation installation.

Server components are installed from the CD provided with your purchase. It creates and populates the folder that will contain the executables for the application and will create a control folder for network metering. By default, the application folder is named DX8Net and contains the Control folder.



Workstations are set up by the WrkSetup.exe program that is found in the DX8net folder on the server. Any number of workstations can access the software, but only the designated number of seats for this license can be used simultaneously.

### Scenarios:

Standard (default) installation:

1. Program resides on the server in the DX8Net application folder.
2. The control folder is named "Control" and resides in the DX8Net folder.
3. Workstations are set up as follows:
  - a. From the workstation, navigate to the DX8Net folder and run WrkSetup.exe

- b. Choose Server-based install. This sets up a shortcut to the program on the server and establishes a file association for the .DX8 file type.

Under the standard installation, the program is loaded from the server into the memory of the workstation. Once loaded, the program checks the custdata.ini in the DX8Net folder on the server for the location of the control folder. It then checks the semaphores in the control folder to determine the number of seats in use and compares that to the server license file (user.ini). If a seat is available, the program is launched; otherwise it is terminated with a message stating there are no more seats available.

Designate a custom control path:

Having the control path in the application folder may not be practical, and you may want it in a different location on your server, or perhaps on an entirely different server. That can be accomplished as follows:

1. Create the new folder and give its contents read / write privileges.
2. Edit the custdata.ini and add the following line to the network section:

```
[Network]
ControlPath=\\server\controlpath
```

Where “\\server\controlpath” is the new control path.

Install executables on workstation (client-based install):

If you have a slow network connection you may want to install the executables on the workstation. In the scenario, the only network activity required is for the program to read the remote custdata.ini, and user.ini file then check the control folder for an available seat. All other processing is done locally.

1. Run WrkSetup.exe to install the client.
2. Choose client-based as the installation type.

Executables will be installed locally, but there will be no local user.ini and the custdata.ini will contain just the following:

```
[Network]
NetworkPath=\\server\networkpath
```

Where “\\server\networkpath” is the path to the DX8Net application folder on the server.

Automate the workstation setup:

The workstation setup program, WrkSetup.exe, can be run as a silent install by running it with a “/s” parameter. While this will invoke the standard defaults, you may override them with directives placed in a text file, AUTO\_CLIENT.INI.

## Multiple location scenarios

If you have multiple locations in your organization a single server may prove slow for multiple locations. While the network version was originally designed on the single server model, there are ways to improve the performance.

1. Install the program as Client-based.  
This installs the executables on the workstation. With this configuration, the program only needs to visit the network to check the license file and see if a seat is available.  
The downside to this approach is having to update each workstation if a new version (or update) is applied.
2. Install the server program multiple servers (one for each location). The control folder would need to reside on a server that is accessible from the workstations at all locations. Under this scheme, each workstation would run from its own local server, while obtaining a license from the common control folder on a shared server.

