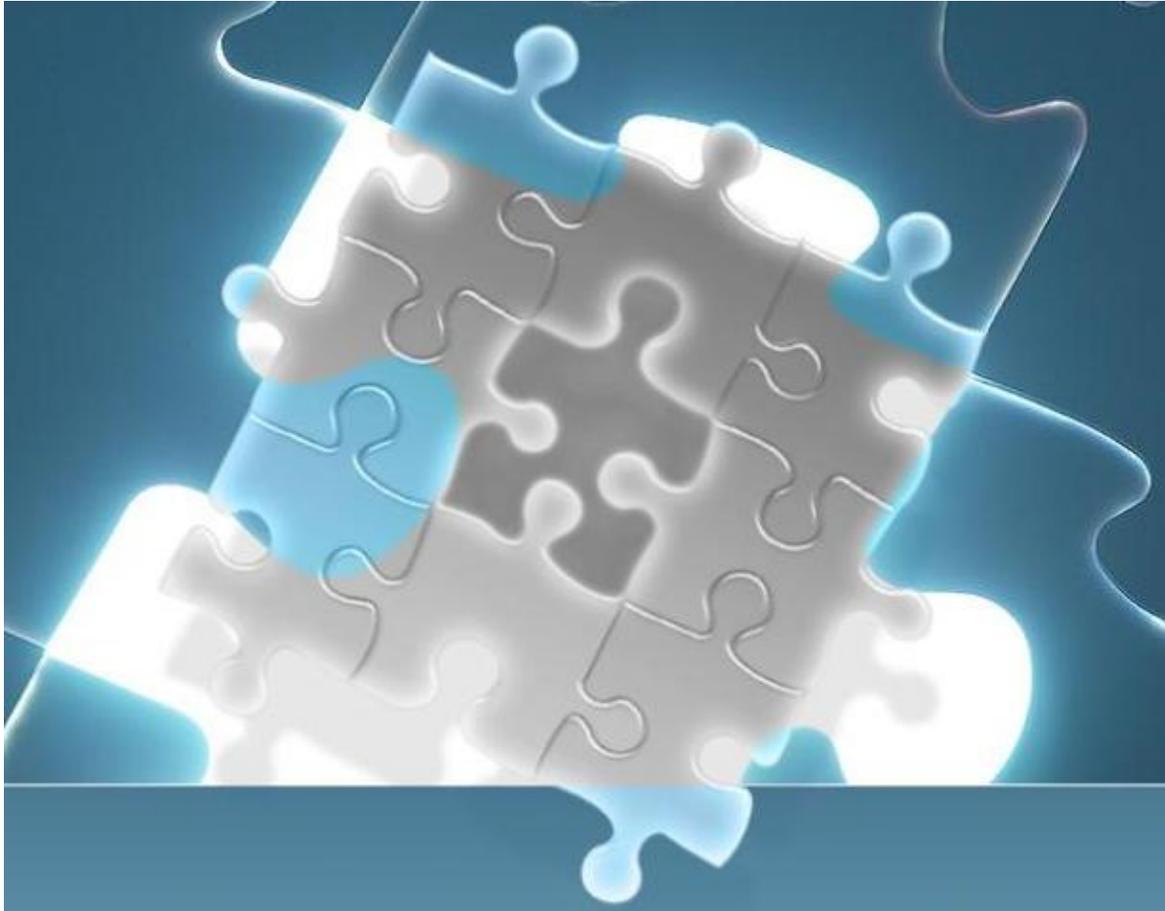


## LAM database build and maintenance



License Asset Manager's value is in the access to and interpretation of license data. Data must be as comprehensive and as current as possible. Comprehensive implies that as much relevant data as possible be in the LAM database. Current implies that data is accurate and up to date. This Application Note will address these 2 fundamental concepts. We will also look at 2 types of data – data that does not change and data that can change frequently. We will finally look at the sources of data and how they can be imported into LAM with the least amount of effort, time and cost. Recommended prerequisite reading: [The "Business side" of License Management](#) white paper from TeamEDA website ([www.teameda.com](http://www.teameda.com))

### **Database potential**

LAM offers a huge potential for capturing data. What data is necessary, desirable, usable, available, and how easy is it to get that data into LAM, is the issue. Let's look at some definitions-

- Necessary: data needed to make good business decisions and to insure license agreement compliance.
- Desirable: data that completes the information about all engineering software
- Usable: data can be easily interpreted and used to assess current inventory, requirements, and make decisions
- Available: data you can easily find. Some data is simply going to be very hard to obtain.
- Getting the data into LAM. Can it be imported via excel spreadsheet or manually entered?

So in order of importance, we want to get data that is Necessary and Easy to obtain. Secondly, we want Usable data. Thirdly we want Desirable data, and lastly we want data that is Desirable but hard to obtain.

LAM has the potential to include the following data types:

PO data: an effective asset management system must include (start with) the primary source document- the PO that licenses were purchased on (reference the white paper mentioned above).  
Data: PO #, Date, PO hard copy (electronic version), Req/Quote hard copy, Charge Center, line items, quantities, costs, "Deal Notes",....

Vendor data: Engineering Tools (products) are purchased and licensed from Vendors or Resellers. So information about the Vendor/Reseller is very important. Data: Vendor name, Corporate address/phone, local contacts, info on Corporate Discount and purchase terms, 'License Agreement' hard copies, Product list by Discipline, Part #,,.....

License Servers and daemon data: an effective license management tool must include information about the servers that serve out the shared (LAN/WAN) licenses. Data: Server name, location, server type, OS, HostID, Sys Admin, daemons and ports,,.....

Licenses data: these are the Tools (products) that you buy with a PO. These are your expensive assets, and we must track these carefully. This is the most essential data because this is where the costs are. Usually a "License" is related to a line item on a PO, such as: 5- NC-Sim LAN licenses, 10- Pro/E node-locked seats, 2- CFD Master WAN licenses, or 1- Maintenance Renewal for x product(s),.... License entry requires that the Vendor and the Tool already be in LAM. PO is Desirable but not necessary. License entry should also include the Tool type (Production, Temp, Spare,...), the Restriction type (Node-locked, LAN, WAN,...) and Purchase type (Subscription, Perpetual,...) for that License. While Tool type, Restriction type, and Purchase type are not required they are Desirable and will provide important reports about the License inventory.

LAM User community data: these are the people who will be using LAM, expecting Email alerts, or those supporting the Licenses or servers. Data: user name, email address, phone number, privileges,... Knowledge of the internal email system will be required during initial set up of email alerts.

### **Initial database build up**

So what data is required initially and how do you get it into LAM. The sequence of database build up is typically- Vendor→Tool→POs→Servers→daemons→Licenses. There are 4 ways to get initial data into LAM:

1. Manual entry
2. LAM import template (excel import)
3. TeamEDA data entry services under NDA (\$50/hour)

4. Custom scripts created by TeamEDA to search for and import automatically (fee based on scope of effort)

Which method you choose depends on the source of the data, importance, amount of time and effort required to get into LAM, and costs.

Let's first look at Vendors, Tools, Servers/daemons, and User Community.

- Vendor data: Corporate info on all major CAD, CAE and EDA Vendors is preloaded. Just select Import in the Vendor Tab view and click on EDA and MDA Vendors. That will populate the corporate info. You can use the LAM import template to import remaining Vendors. Vendor Contacts can be entered manually.
- Tool data: Basic product data for the major CAD, CAE, and EDA Vendors is preloaded. Just select Import in the Tool Tab view and click on your Vendors. That will populate Tool name and Discipline info. You can use the LAM import template to import remaining Tools, or type them in manually. You may wish to include cost, a part #, or change Discipline names, or add "Notes".
- Servers/daemons: most server and daemon info is already in someone's excel spreadsheet. That data can be imported using the LAM import template.
- User community: the easiest and fastest way is to just enter the information manually. There won't be too many- perhaps 4-5 "LAM Users", and 2-3 "License Support" people.

### **Initial POs and Licenses**

This is what causes the most anxiety. Do you capture all your past PO's? How do you get 2,000 licenses into LAM? First of all we track License "line items" in LAM, so one line item could be 100 licenses of NC-Sim, or 50 seats of Pro/E. A "line item" in LAM corresponds to a "line item" in your PO. It would be "Desirable" to have your past PO's in LAM, so that you have purchase information, can get PO History and Renewal cost estimate reports,....., but it is not necessary. One approach is to start collecting PO info now, and going forward. For current licenses, just do not associate them with a PO. If however, past PO's are on someone's excel spreadsheet it would be easy enough to import that information using the LAM import template.

As for Licenses, someone no doubt has an excel spreadsheet with this information. This data can be transferred into the LAM import template and brought in quickly. Again, Vendor and Tool info must already be in LAM for this to work. If the Licenses are not already in a spreadsheet, or cannot easily be entered via the LAM import template, then they would be entered manually. The process is relatively fast- figure 10 minutes per "line item". You will want to link a line item to a specific license file for tracking purposes. That link can be either

- Path to the license file location
- Selected port@host

### **Data that does not change, or changes rarely**

A lot of Vendor, Contact, Licensing Agreements, Tool information, rarely changes once entered. Occasionally a Contact may change, or a new Tool introduced/purchased. In those cases, simply making the change in LAM is fast and easy. License Server and daemons do not change, although a Server may be replaced every 3-5 years. Again a simple change in LAM is made. Much of this data is currently available, typically in a spreadsheet somewhere. That spreadsheet can be used to import into LAM using the LAM import template. Spreadsheet import is available for new Vendor, Tool, Server, daemon, and License information. When data does change, just manually updates LAM. It is fast and easy to do.

### **Data that does change regularly**

PO's and License files can change regularly. New POs are issued to Vendors/Resellers for a variety of reasons- Tool remix, add/delete license, subscription or maintenance renewals, etc. New PO information can be brought into LAM either through the LAM import template (excel), or manually entered. It will take < 5 minutes to enter in a new PO and maybe 10 minutes to enter the

corresponding licenses/line items. So in most cases, it takes less than 15 minutes to enter a new PO into LAM. TeamEDA can also write custom scripts to import directly from your MRP/ERP accounting system, on a daily, weekly or monthly basis. (contact TeamEDA for more information).

License files can change frequently. Whenever a Tool remix occurs, products added, or dropped, the Vendor will issue a new license file (key). Deployment of these can be daunting. Large companies may see 10 new license files a week. The Tool admin receives the license file via email and places the new file in the respective location on the license server. The license manager daemon begins using the new license file almost immediately. These new license files may affect the “feature” detail in LAM- feature, quantity, expiration, version #. There are 2 ways to update Licenses in LAM:

1. If the license file location (port@host) is the same- click reread. LAM will update the feature details with the new License key information. (LAM 5.6 will have an auto-reread capability and will update the feature info automatically).
2. If the license file location (port@host) has changed, manually change the license file location (use browser), or point to new port@host.
3. If adding/subtracting Licenses to an existing License line item, using a new PO, enter the new PO using the existing License details, and change “quantity” as needed. Reread of new license key will update the feature quantities.
4. If deleting Licenses, just check mark and delete line item in the LAM License Tab view.

### **Maintenance**

Except for entering new POs, Licenses, Servers, etc there is no specific Maintenance required for LAM. There is the issue of updating feature detail from a new License key, and that was discussed above. A company may assign one person, or a number of people, the responsibility of maintaining LAM or a certain section thereof. There are advantages to both approaches. It hooves the corporation though to commit time and resources to insure the data is current and accurate. A periodic “committee” audit (quarterly?) might be a good way to insure the data is up to date.

### **Back up**

A good policy is to back up the LAM database at least monthly. There are instructions in the LAM User Documentation for Back-up and Restore.

### **Summary**

So the bottom line is data is either initial or on-going. It will take some time to get all the initial data into LAM, the value of LAM can show itself rather quickly. We provide a few different methods for data entry above. Renewals and new purchase data can be again, either by using the LAM import template; by manual new entry, line item editing, “cloning”; or by custom scripts developed by TeamEDA for you company. The advantages of a consolidated, shared, protected license management environment, far out way the disadvantage of LAM database maintenance. License data maintenance must be done anyway in some form or fashion. Using LAM provides a common, easy to use, enterprise-wide solution to License asset management.

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