



Activation and License Return Guide

GstarCAD 2026



GstarCAD

Table of Contents

1.	GstarCAD Licensing Options.....	1
2.	License Key Activation	1
2.1.	Standalone License Key	2
2.1.1.	Online Activation.....	2
2.1.2.	Manual Activation	4
2.2.	Network License Key.....	8
3.	USB Dongle Activation	9
3.1.	Standalone USB Dongle.....	9
3.2.	Network USB Dongle	10
4.	Standalone License Key Return	11
4.1.	Online Return	12
4.2.	Manual Return.....	13
5.	Network Licenses Borrow and Return.....	17
5.1.	Borrow License from Server	18
5.2.	Borrowed Return.....	19

1. GstarCAD Licensing Options

GstarCAD provides the flexible licensing options. GstarCAD offers Stand-alone and Network license, both are available with License key and USB Dongle.

Stand-alone license

The software is constrained to a certain host. A license is needed for each computer on which the software will be installed.

Network license

A pool of licenses is available on the server, for use in any computer on the network. You only need to have licenses for the maximum number of simultaneous users expected, not for each computer where the software will be installed.

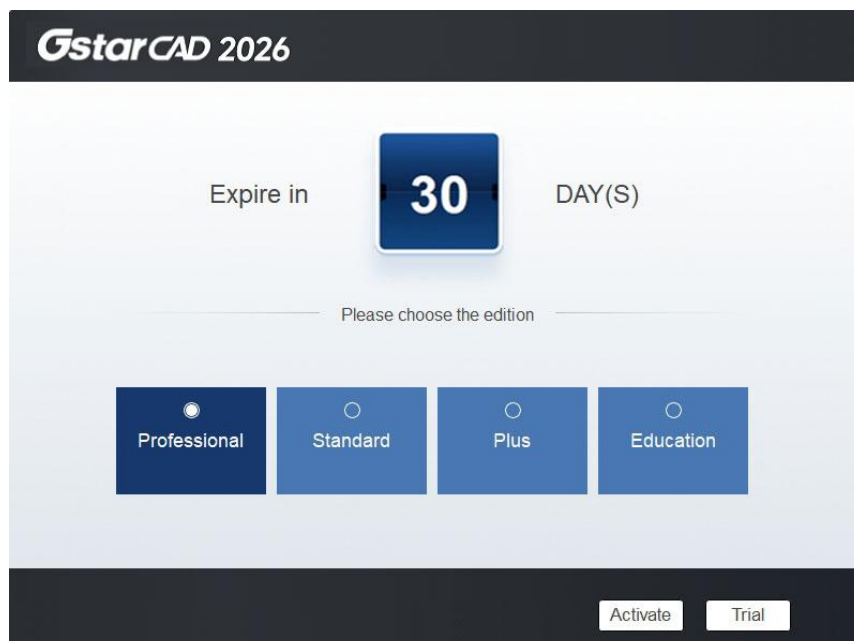
	Stand-alone		Network	
	License-key Serial number	USB-key Dongle	License-key Serial number	USB-key Dongle
Perpetual license	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rental license	✓	×	✓	×
License borrowing	×	×	✓	×
Connection to license server	×	×	✓	✓

2. License Key Activation

GstarCAD 2026 has launched a new version (Plus), which supports powerful parametric constraint functions based on the functions of the professional version, bringing a more efficient and Intelligent experience to your design work.

After you install GstarCAD 2026 and start up software, the system prompts you to choose [Activate](#) or [Trial](#).

In both cases, please select a version accordingly first.



- If you want to try GstarCAD 2026, just select [Trial](#) to get a 30-day trial of the software. During the trial period, the product performs as fully activated.
- If you already have a valid license key, you can activate the software directly by selecting [Activate](#) to open GstarCAD License Manager. Or you can access GstarCAD License Manager from Help menu- Register.

The license key has two encryption methods: stand-alone and network activation.

Stand-alone license key activation methods: online activation and manual activation.

Network license key also supports online activation and manual activation. In addition, the network version can also be activated by borrowing a license from server.

There are four methods provides in License key tab.

Online Activation: Activate license online

Manual Activation: Activate license manually

Network License: Get license from a network license server

Borrow License: Borrow license from a network license server

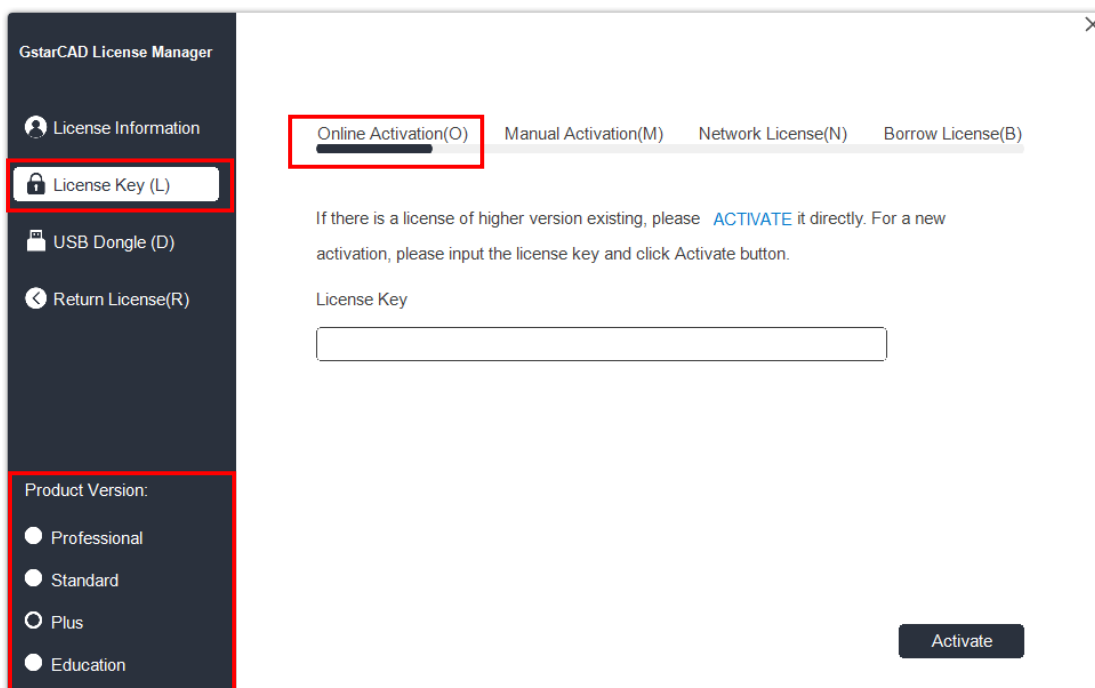
2.1. Standalone License Key

You need a valid **standalone** license key to activate your GstarCAD.

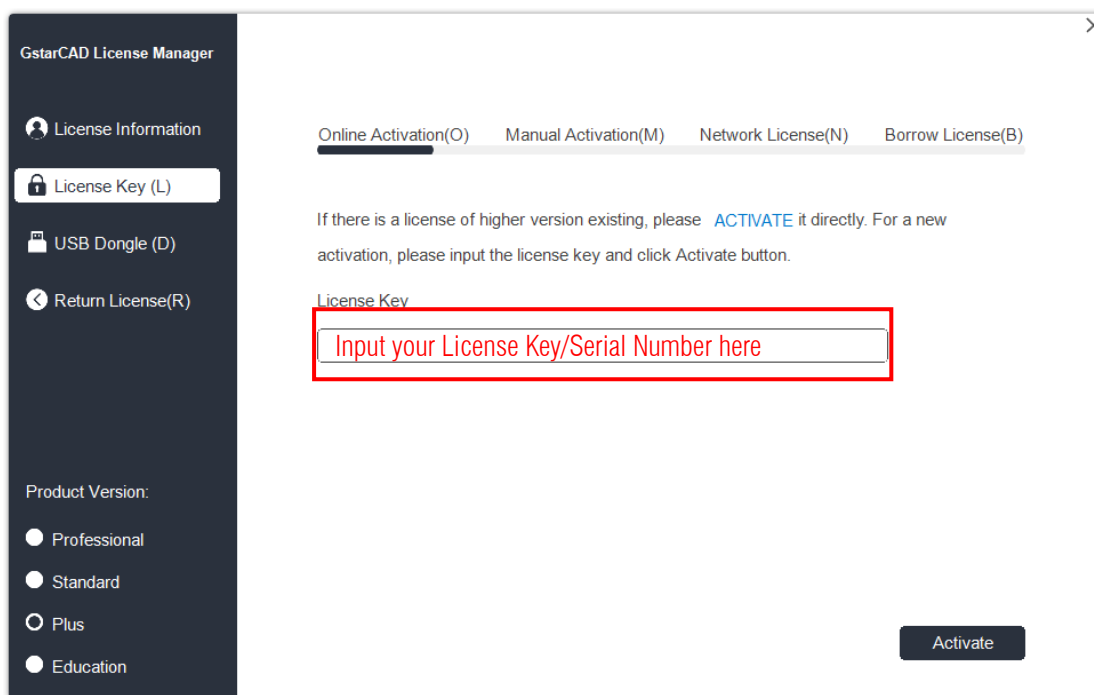
2.1.1. Online Activation

Instruction: Make sure your computer is connected to the internet.

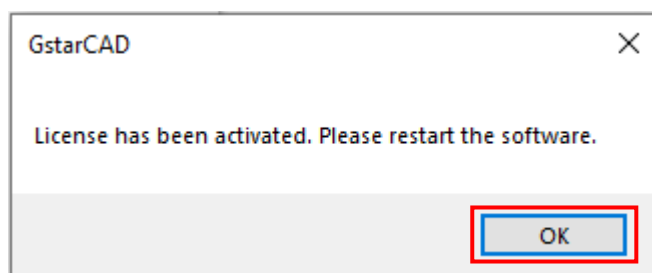
1. Click [License Key\(L\)](#) → [Online Activation \(O\)](#) and select a version of GstarCAD 2026 (Professional, Standard, Plus and Education).



2. Input your **License Key** (serial number) and click the **Activate** button.

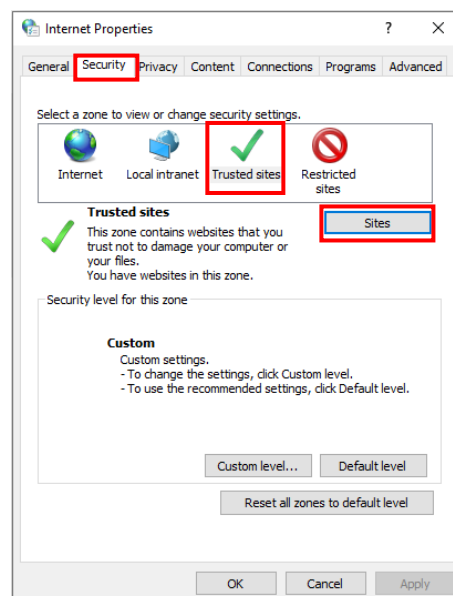


3. After a few seconds the following message appears. Click **OK** button to finish the activation. Then restart your GstarCAD 2026.



Note: For Windows Server operation system, if it prompts "Session does not exist" when activate or return GstarCAD standalone license online via GstarCAD License Manager, please check the following solution:

1. Open **Internet Explorer (IE)** and select **Internet Options** and then click **Trusted sites** from **Security** tab.
2. Add the following two sites to the trusted sites.
<https://support.gstarcad.net>
<https://support2.gstarcad.net>
3. Click **OK** button to save the security settings. Then you can activate or return GstarCAD standalone license online normally.



2.1.2. Manual Activation

Instruction: If your computer is not connected to the internet, you can use activation file (xml file) to activate your GstarCAD 2026 manually.

- 1) Click **License Key(L)** → **Manual Activation (M)** and select a version of GstarCAD (Professional, Standard, Plus and Education) from your computer.

GstarCAD License Manager

License Information

License Key (L)

USB Dongle (D)

Return License(R)

Product Version:

- Professional
- Standard
- Plus
- Education

Online Activation(O) **Manual Activation(M)** Network License(N) Borrow License(B)

If there is a license of higher version existing, please **ACTIVATE** it directly. For a new activation, please input the license key and move to the next steps.

License Key

1. **GENERATE** request file.

2. Upload request file to <https://license.gstarcad.net/> and get license file (or send request file to your local distributor/reseller from whom you purchased GstarCAD products to get license file)

3. **LOAD** the license file and click Activate button.

Activate

- 2) Input your license key (serial number) and click the **GENERATE** button to get the request file and save it.

GstarCAD License Manager

License Information

License Key (L)

USB Dongle (D)

Return License(R)

Product Version:

- Professional
- Standard
- Plus
- Education

Online Activation(O) **Manual Activation(M)** Network License(N) Borrow License(B)

If there is a license of higher version existing, please **ACTIVATE** it directly. For a new activation, please input the license key and move to the next steps.

License Key

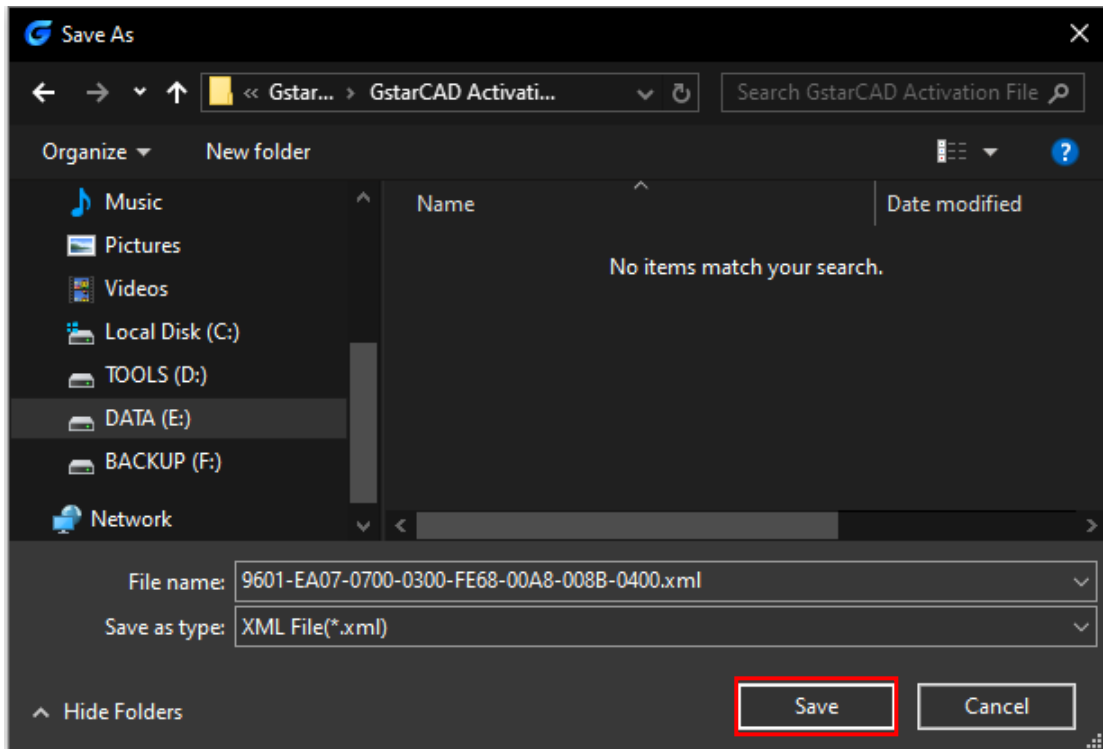
Input your License Key/Serial Number here

1. **GENERATE** request file.

2. Upload request file to <https://license.gstarcad.net/> and get license file (or send request file to your local distributor/reseller from whom you purchased GstarCAD products to get license file)

3. **LOAD** the license file and click Activate button.

Activate



3) There are 2 ways to acquire license file with the saved request file:

Option 1: E-mail

You can send the request file from any computer with internet connected to your local GstarCAD distributor/reseller from whom you purchased GstarCAD products to get the license file.

Option 2: Online Service

You can access GstarCAD online service center from any computer with internet connected to download the license file.

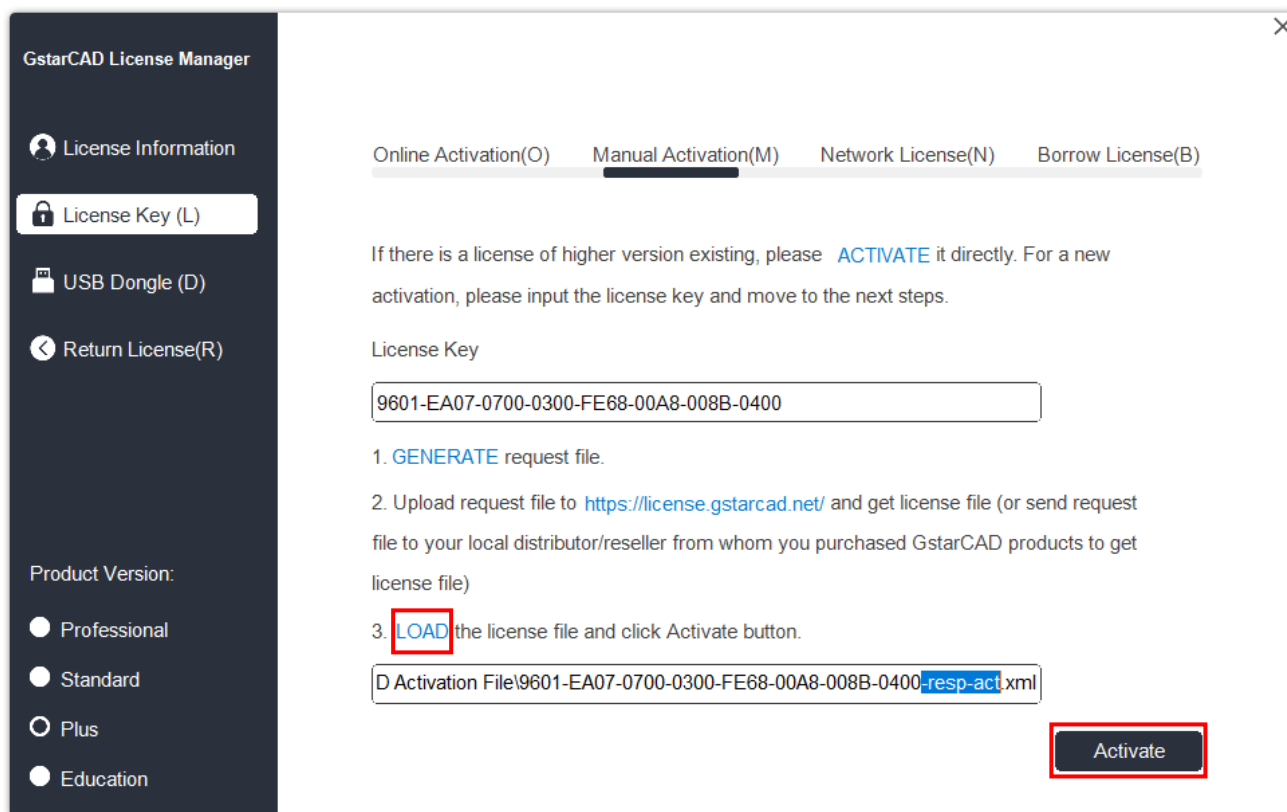
- (1) Login to GstarCAD online service center: <https://license.gstarcad.net/>
- (2) Input your license key (serial number) and click the **Login** button to continue.

(3) In Activation tab, click the [Activate](#) button to continue.

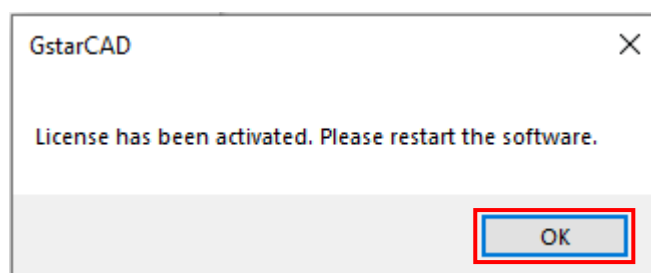
(4) Click the [Choose File](#) button and select the request file you have saved and click the [Submit](#) button to continue.

(5) Click the [Download](#) button and save the license file (Response XML File). We recommend you to store the license file to your USB flash drive.

- 4) Back to your computer and find out GstarCAD License Manager from Help-Register in GstarCAD 2026, please click the **LOAD** button and select the license file you have just downloaded and saved from another computer, and then click the **Activate** button.



- 5) After a few seconds the following message window appears. Click the **OK** button to finish the activation. Then restart your GstarCAD.



2.2. Network License Key

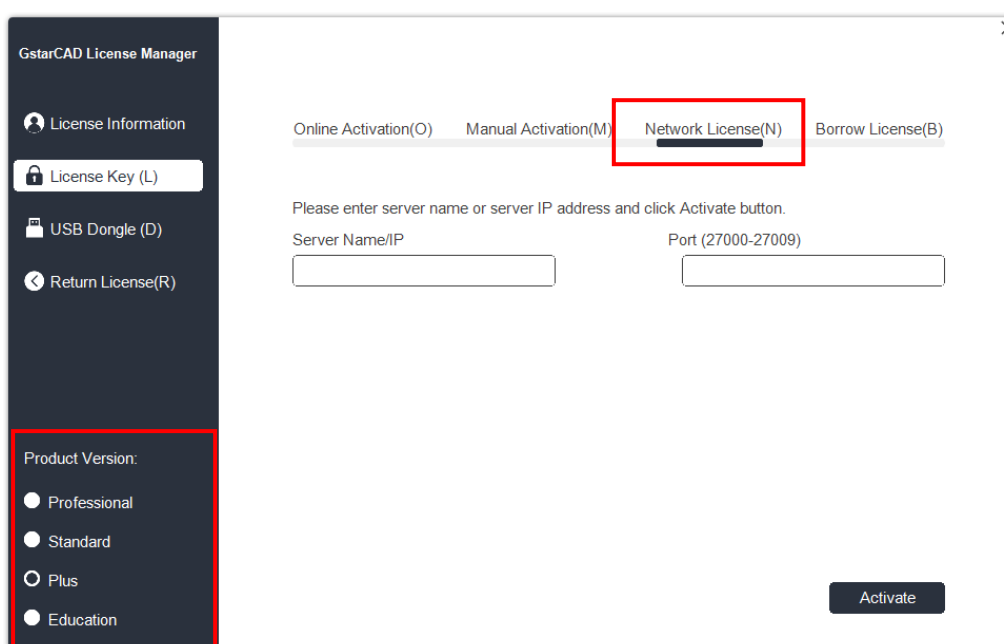
GstarCAD Network enables you to share a number of GstarCAD licenses on your LAN. It gives flexibility of license floating among a working group. Before the network activation, you need to specify server computer to install [GstarCAD Network License Manager](#) to manage your network license.

For the detail, please refer to “[GstarCAD 2026 Network License Manager Guide](#)”

After GstarCAD network license key has been activated on the server computer, any client with the valid server IP and License Port can access to the server in the same LAN.

Please follow the steps below to activate your GstarCAD Network on client side:

1. Click [Network License \(N\)](#) and select a version of GstarCAD (Professional, Standard, Plus and Education).



GstarCAD License Manager

License Information

License Key (L)

USB Dongle (D)

Return License(R)

Product Version:

- ☒ Professional
- ☐ Standard
- ☐ Plus
- ☐ Education

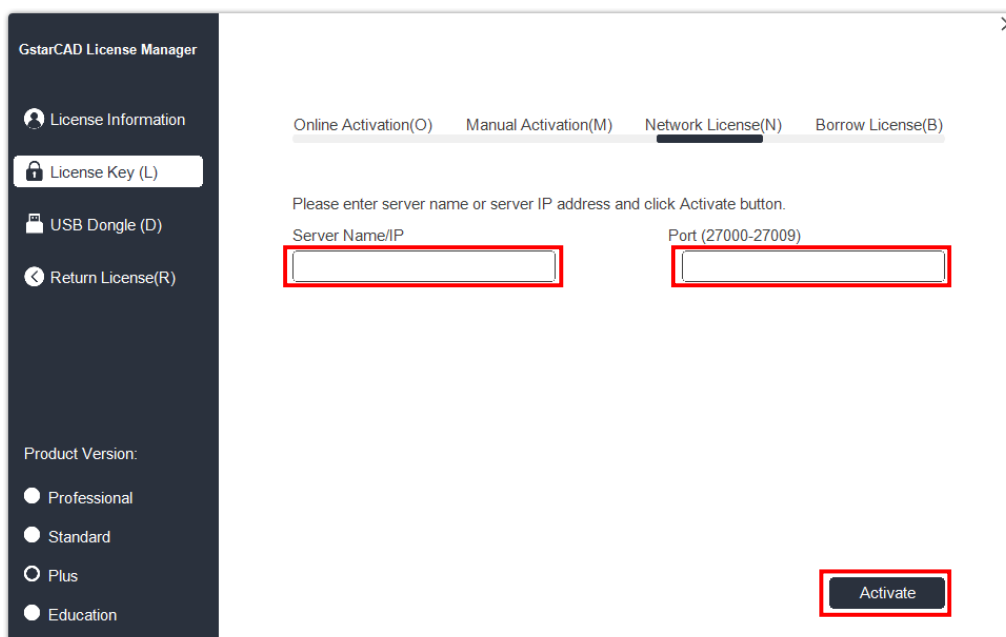
Online Activation(O) Manual Activation(M) **Network License(N)** Borrow License(B)

Please enter server name or server IP address and click Activate button.

Server Name/IP Port (27000-27009)

Activate

2. Specify server IP address and the License Port, click [Activate](#) button to activate your software on client side.



GstarCAD License Manager

License Information

License Key (L)

USB Dongle (D)

Return License(R)

Product Version:

- ☒ Professional
- ☐ Standard
- ☐ Plus
- ☐ Education

Online Activation(O) Manual Activation(M) **Network License(N)** Borrow License(B)

Please enter server name or server IP address and click Activate button.

Server Name/IP Port (27000-27009)

Activate

3. USB Dongle Activation

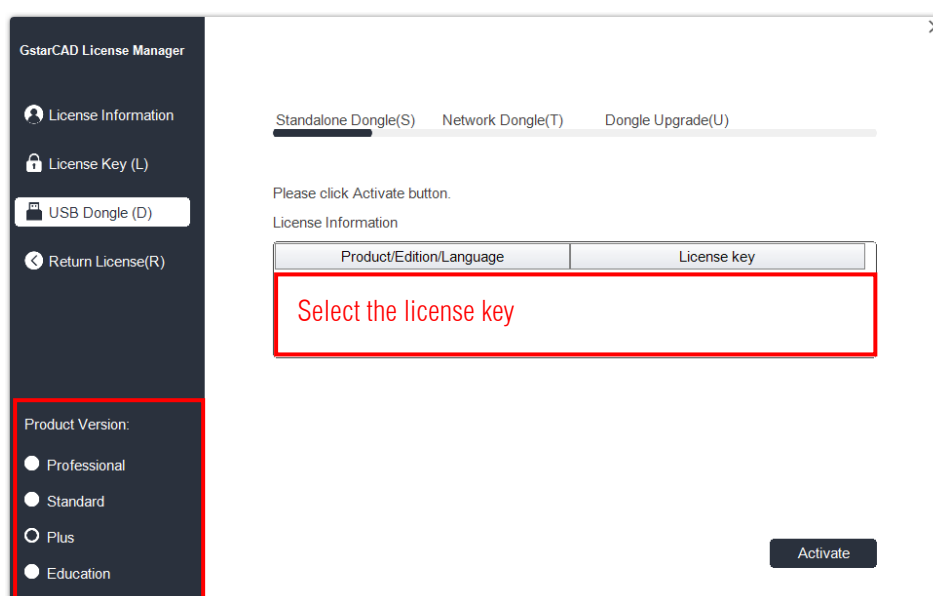
You need to connect USB dongle to your computer to activate your GstarCAD 2026, or you can get a network license from an existing USB network license server. .

Standalone Dongle: Activate GstarCAD 2026 via USB dongle connected to the computer.

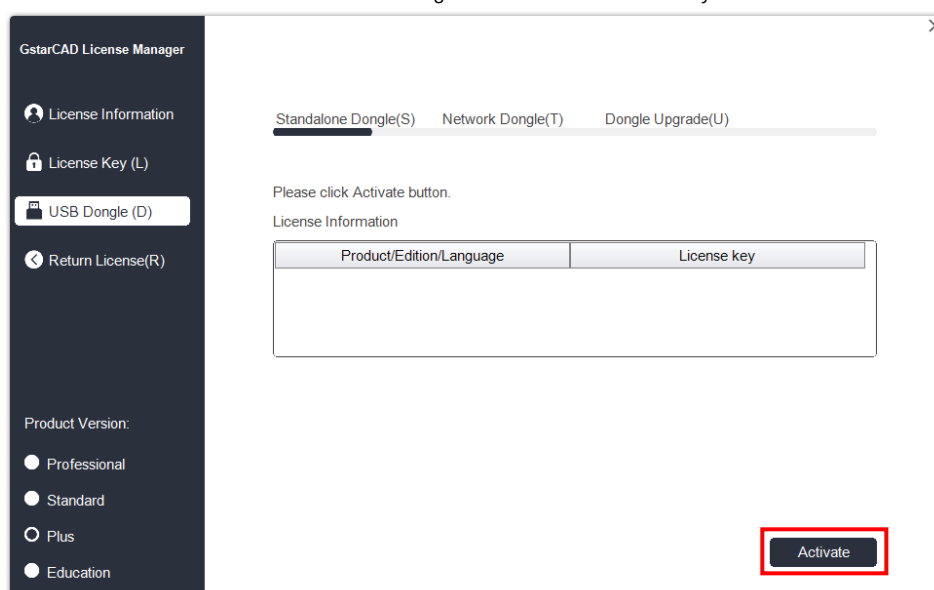
Network Dongle: Get license from a USB network license server.

3.1. Standalone USB Dongle

1. Insert your USB dongle to your computer.
2. Run GstarCAD License Manager which you can access from [Help](#) → [Register](#) tab in GstarCAD 2026. Click [USB Dongle\(D\)](#) → [Standalone Dongle\(S\)](#) and select a version of GstarCAD (Professional, Standard, Plus and Education).



3. Then click [Activate](#) button to finish the standalone dongle activation. Then restart your GstarCAD 2026.



3.2. Network USB Dongle

Instruction: Please make sure the Network Dongle drive is installed in the server computer.

1. Insert GstarCAD network USB Dongle into the server computer. (Any computer in the LAN).
2. Run GstarCAD License Manager which you can access from [Help](#) → [Register](#) tab in GstarCAD 2026. Click [USB Dongle\(D\)](#) → [Network Dongle\(N\)](#).
3. Select a version of GstarCAD (Professional, Standard, Plus and Education). Input the server Name/IP and click [Activate](#) button to activate on client side.

GstarCAD License Manager

License Information

License Key (L)

USB Dongle (D)

Return License(R)

Product Version:

☐ Professional

☐ Standard

☐ Plus

☐ Education

Standalone Dongle(S) **Network Dongle(T)** Dongle Upgrade(U)

Please enter server name or server IP address and click Activate button.

Server Name/IP

Input your server Name/IP here

Activate

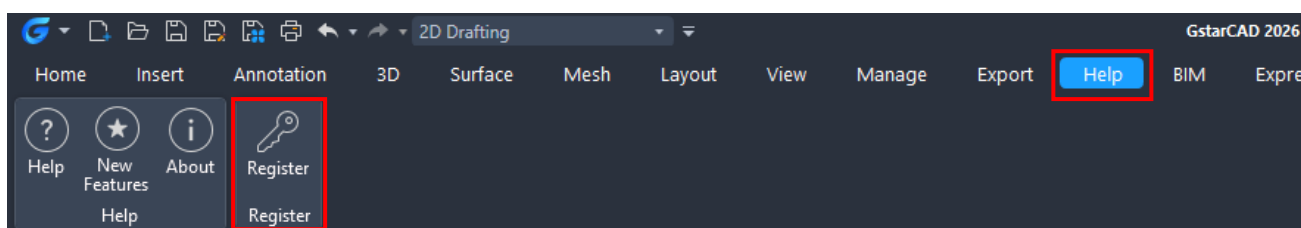
Note: The network on server computer cannot be disconnected during use. If it is disconnected and the network Dongle cannot be found, an abnormality may occur and the drawing cannot be saved.

4. Standalone License Key Return

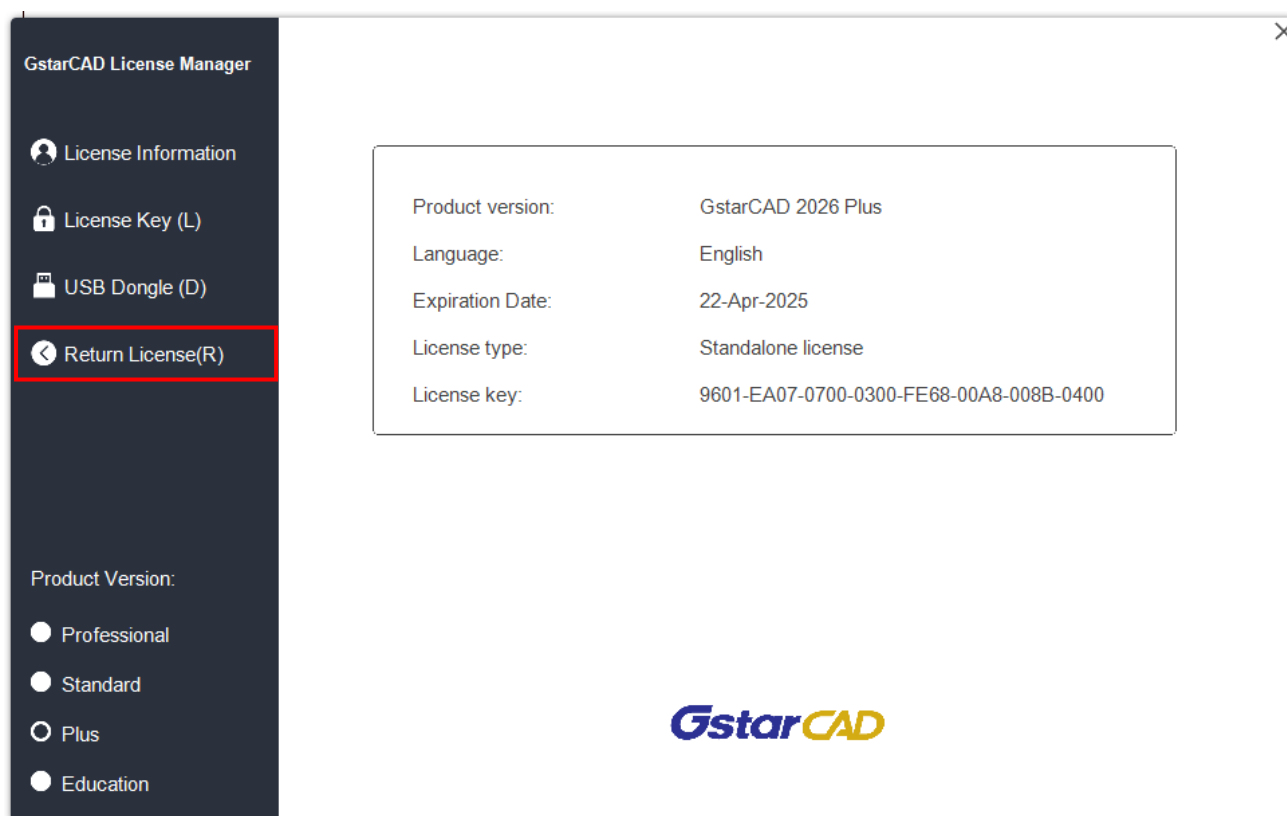
When you are going to change another computer or upgrade your system, to ensure you can use this software again after you changing the system, you need to return license before you change your system, hard disk or main board.

Online Return: Make sure your computer connect to the internet. You can return your license key online

Manual Return: There is no need of internet connection. You can manually return your license key



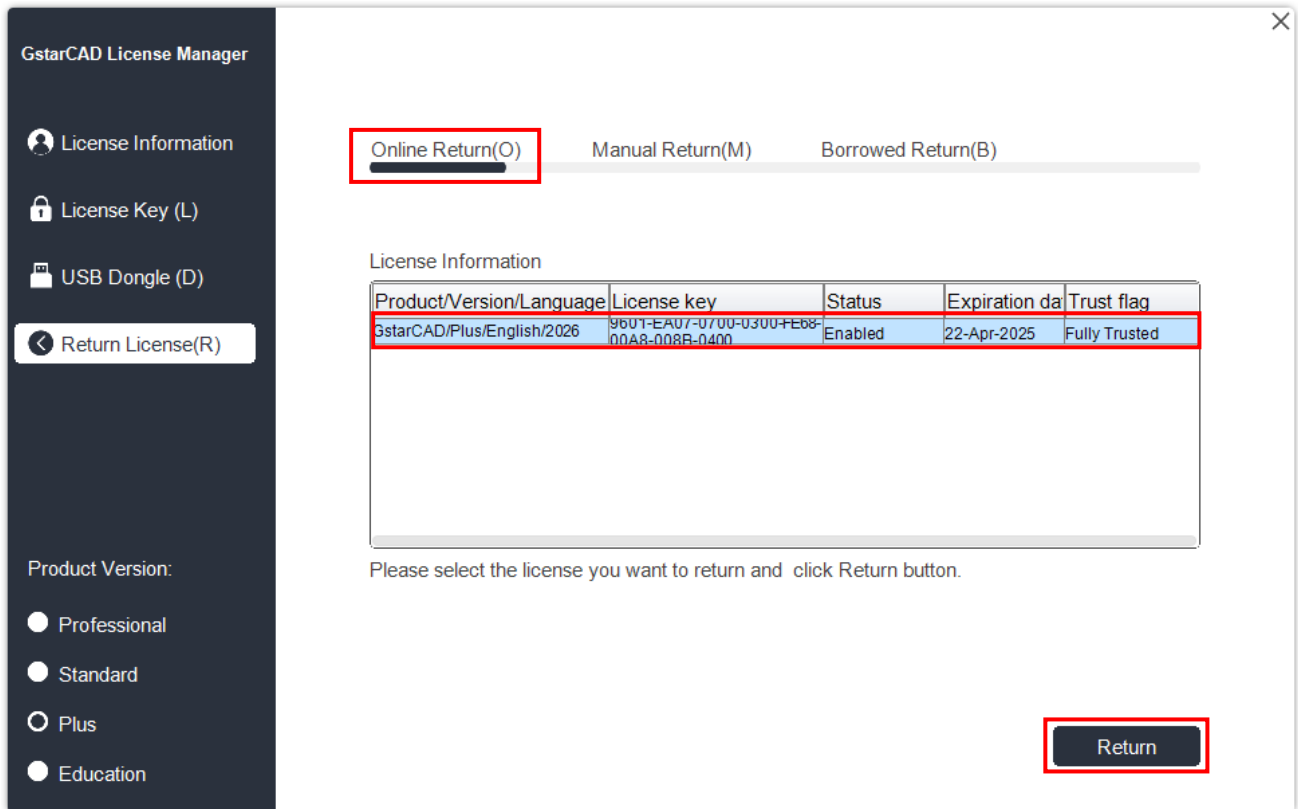
Run GstarCAD License Manager which you can access from [Help](#) → [Register](#) tab in GstarCAD 2026. Then the following window opens. Then click [Return License \(R\)](#).



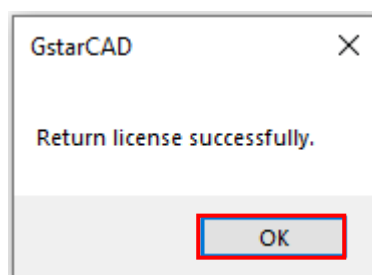
4.1. Online Return

Instruction: make sure your computer connect to the internet.

1. Click **Online Return (O)** and select the license to be returned and click the **Return** button.



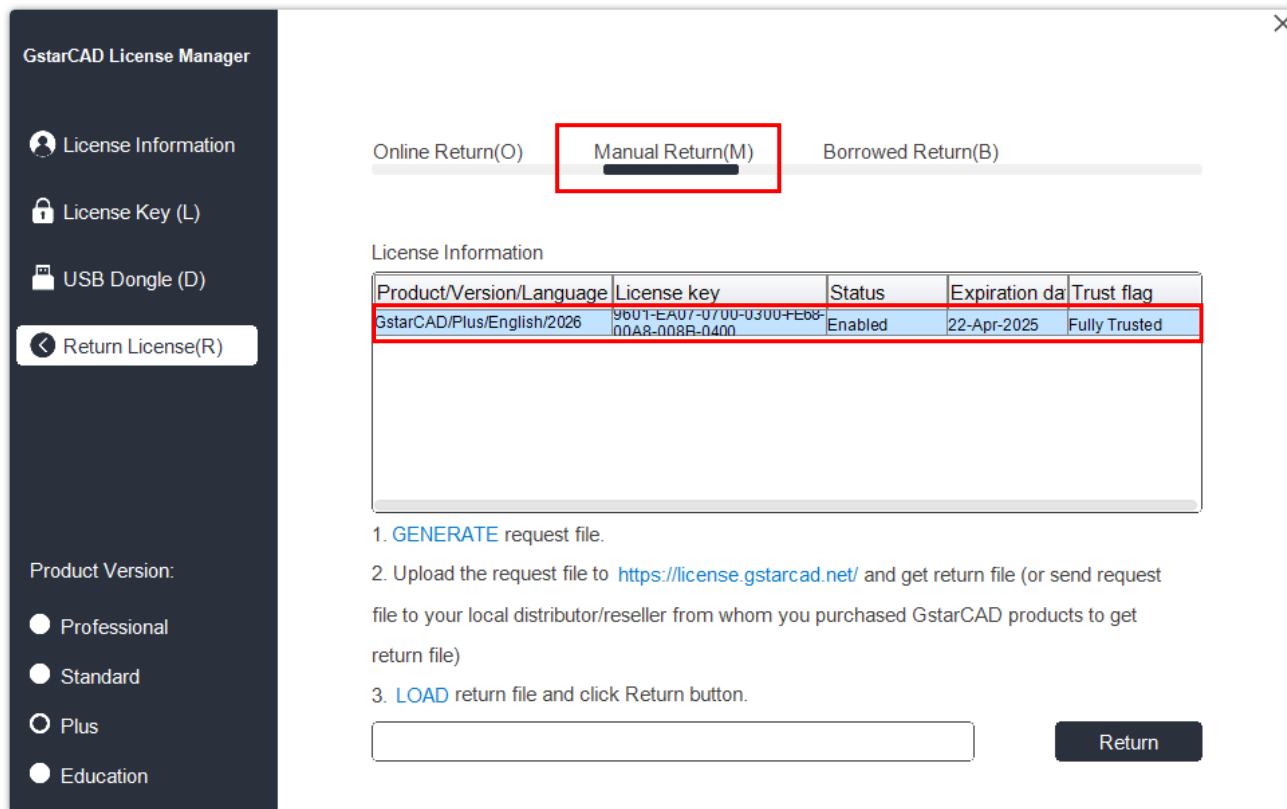
2. After a few seconds, the "Return the license successful" window opens. Click **OK** button to close the window. Then you can see the license you have selected to return has disappeared from License information.



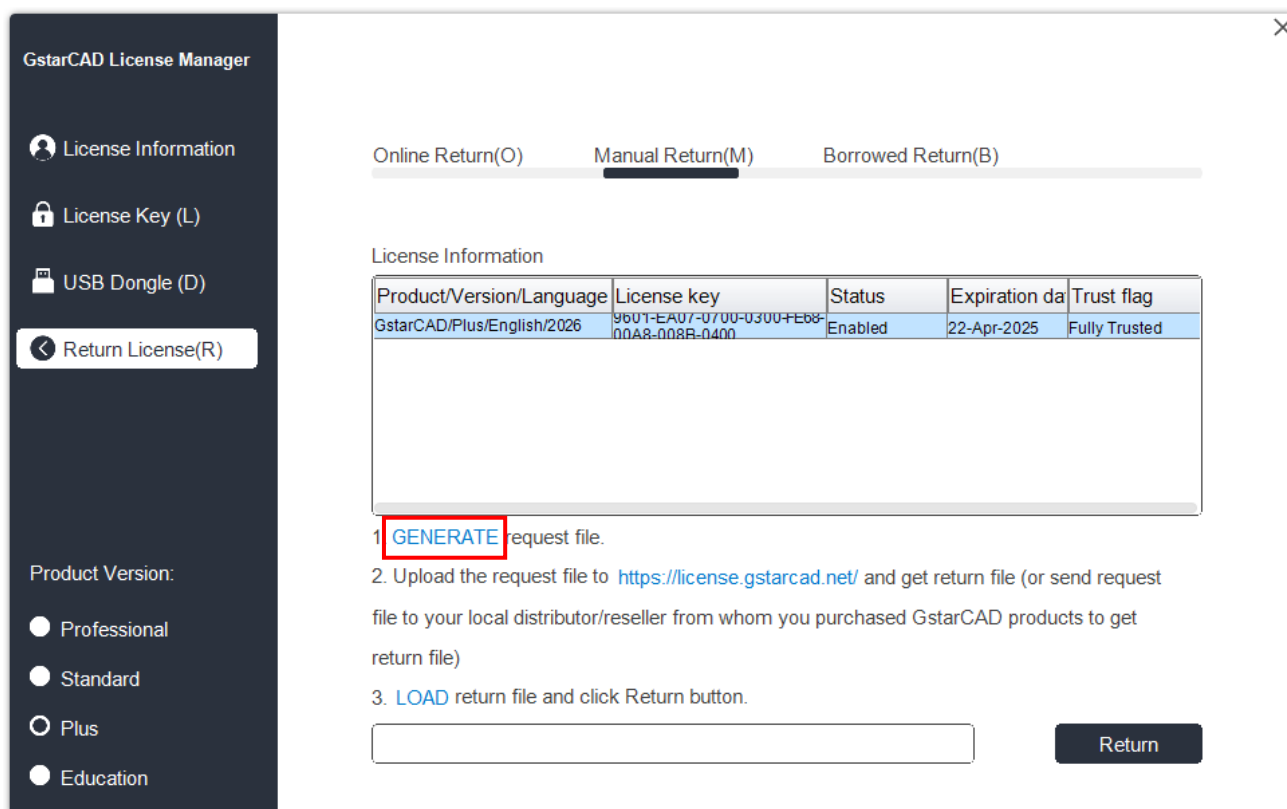
4.2. Manual Return

If your computer is not connected to the internet, you can return the license key manually.

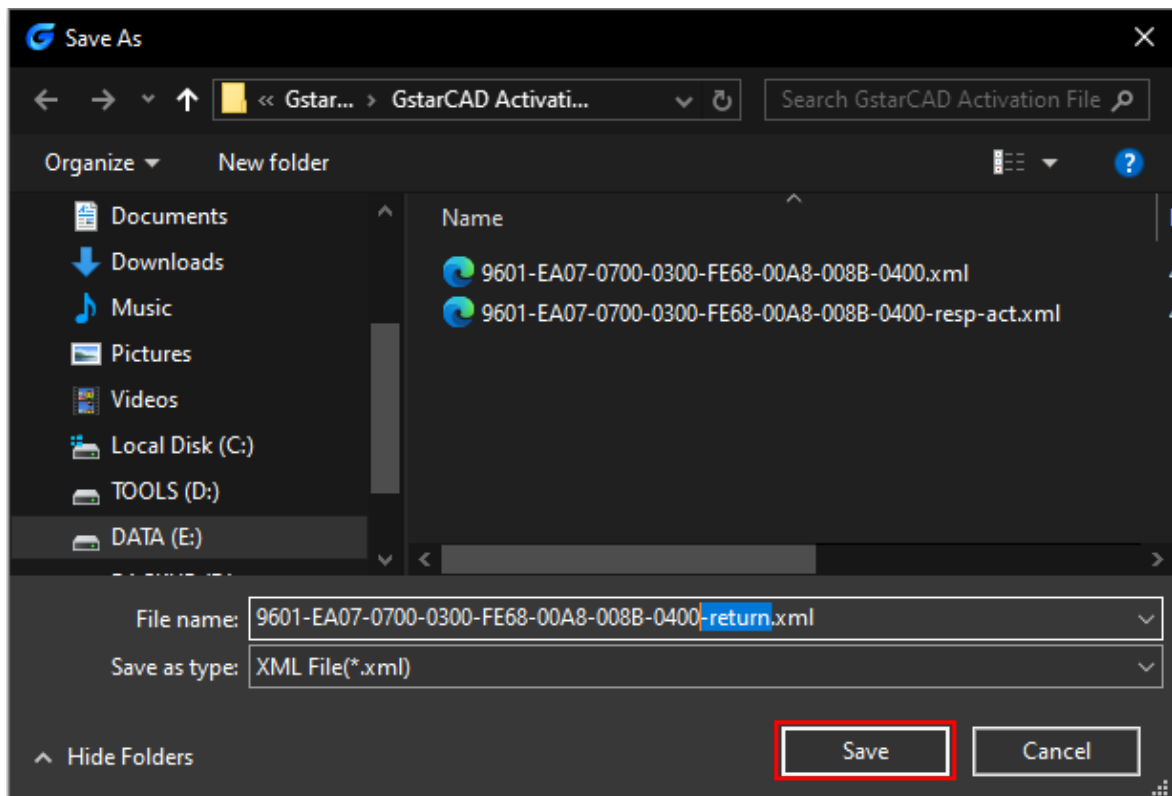
1. Click **Manual Return (M)** and select the license to be returned.



2. Click **GENERATE** button to get the Request file.



3. **Save** the Request file with the extension -return.



4. Click **OK** button after the Request file saved.
5. There are 2 ways to return the license.

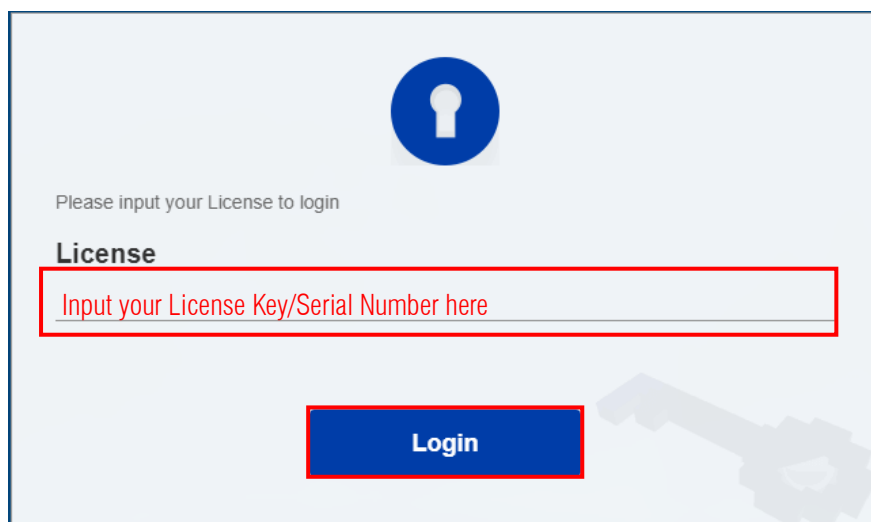
Option 1: E-mail

You can send the return request file from any computer with internet connected to your local distributor/reseller from whom you purchased GstarCAD products to get the return file.

Option 2: Online Service

You can access GstarCAD online service center from any computer with internet connected to download the license file.

1. Access the link <https://license.gstarcad.net/> and login with the GstarCAD license key.



2. Click [License Management](#) tab, and click [Return License](#) button.

The screenshot shows the 'License Management' tab selected in the top navigation bar. The 'Return License' button is highlighted with a red box. Below the button, the license ID '9601-EA07-0700-0300-FE68-00A8-008B-0400' is displayed. A table lists the license details:


Product	Encryption Type	License Type	Language	Service Period	License Status	Response XML
GstarCAD 2026 Plus	Stand-alone Version	Trial License	en-US	2025-04-15~2025-04-22	Activated	

3. Choose the request XML file you saved and Click [Submit](#) button to upload the request file.

The screenshot shows the 'License Management' tab selected. The 'Choose File' button is highlighted with a red box. Below it, the text 'Upload File: 9601-EA07-0700-0300-FE68-00A8-008B-0400-return.xml' is displayed. The 'Submit' button is also highlighted with a red box. Below the button, the text 'Load the credible request XML returned file which created at user client' and 'Find out the file and click it to submit' are shown.

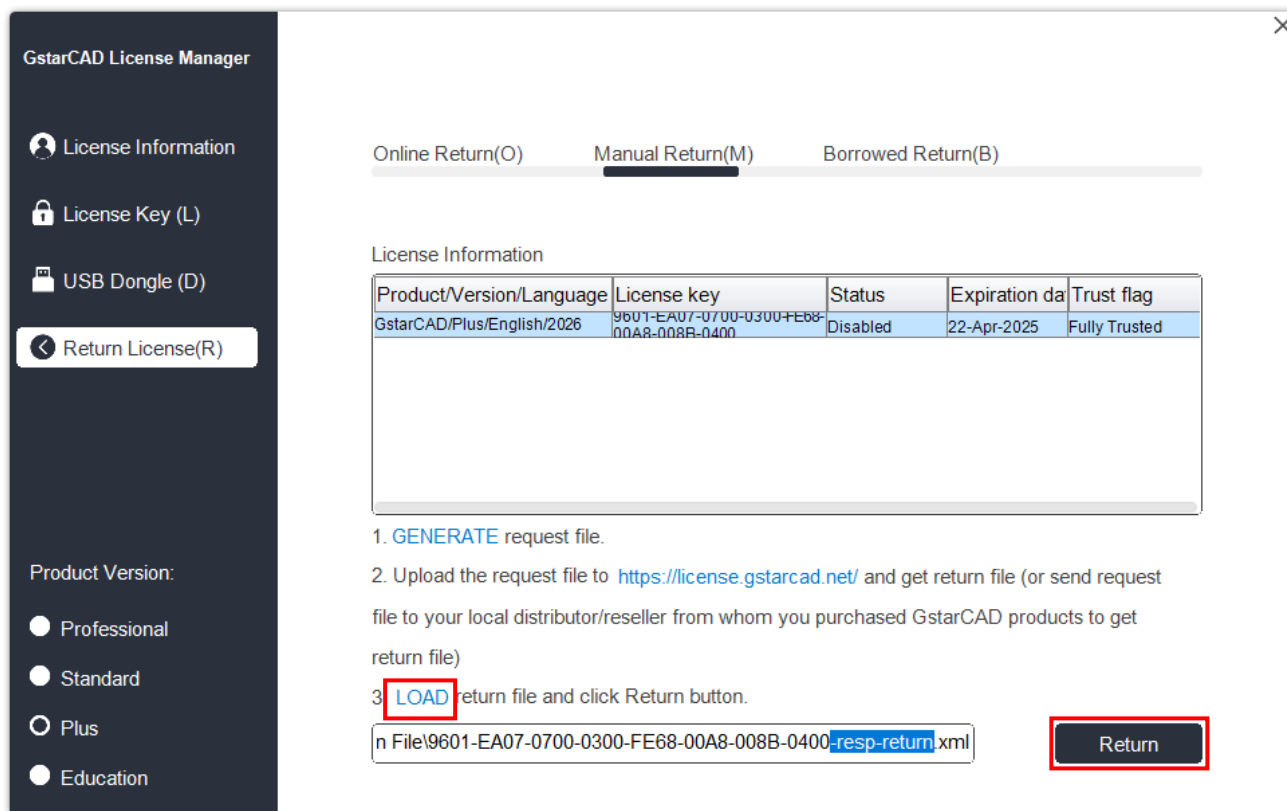
4. [Download](#) the Response XML from License Management tab.

The screenshot shows the 'License Management' tab selected. The 'Return License' button is highlighted with a red box. Below the button, the license ID '9601-EA07-0700-0300-FE68-00A8-008B-0400' is displayed. A table lists the license details:

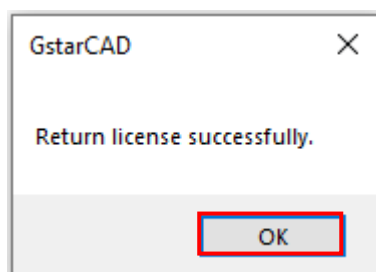
Product	Encryption Type	License Type	Language	Service Period	License Status	Response XML
GstarCAD 2026 Plus	Stand-alone Version	Trial License	en-US	2025-04-15~2025-04-22	Returned	

Please download Response XML file to activate your product.
Please click "Return License" to return your license.

5. Go back to GstarCAD license Manager, Click **.LOAD** to load the -resp-return.xml file and click **Return** button to return GstarCAD license.



6. Then you can see the license key disappeared in the License Information list.



5. Network Licenses Borrow and Return

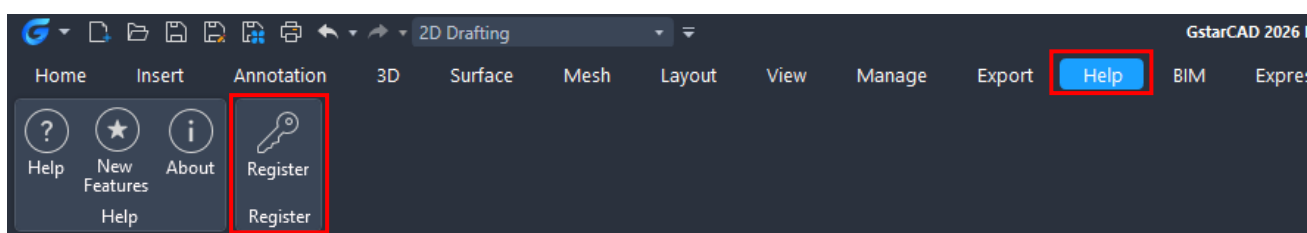
What is more, GstarCAD 2026 provides the function that you can borrow and return license from server at user client. In some special case, you need to transfer one or more than one nodes to individual computer. For example, you need to activate GstarCAD 2026 on a laptop for a certain time. It is great flexibility to use this function.

There are 2 steps to use it: [Borrow License](#) and [Borrowed Return](#).

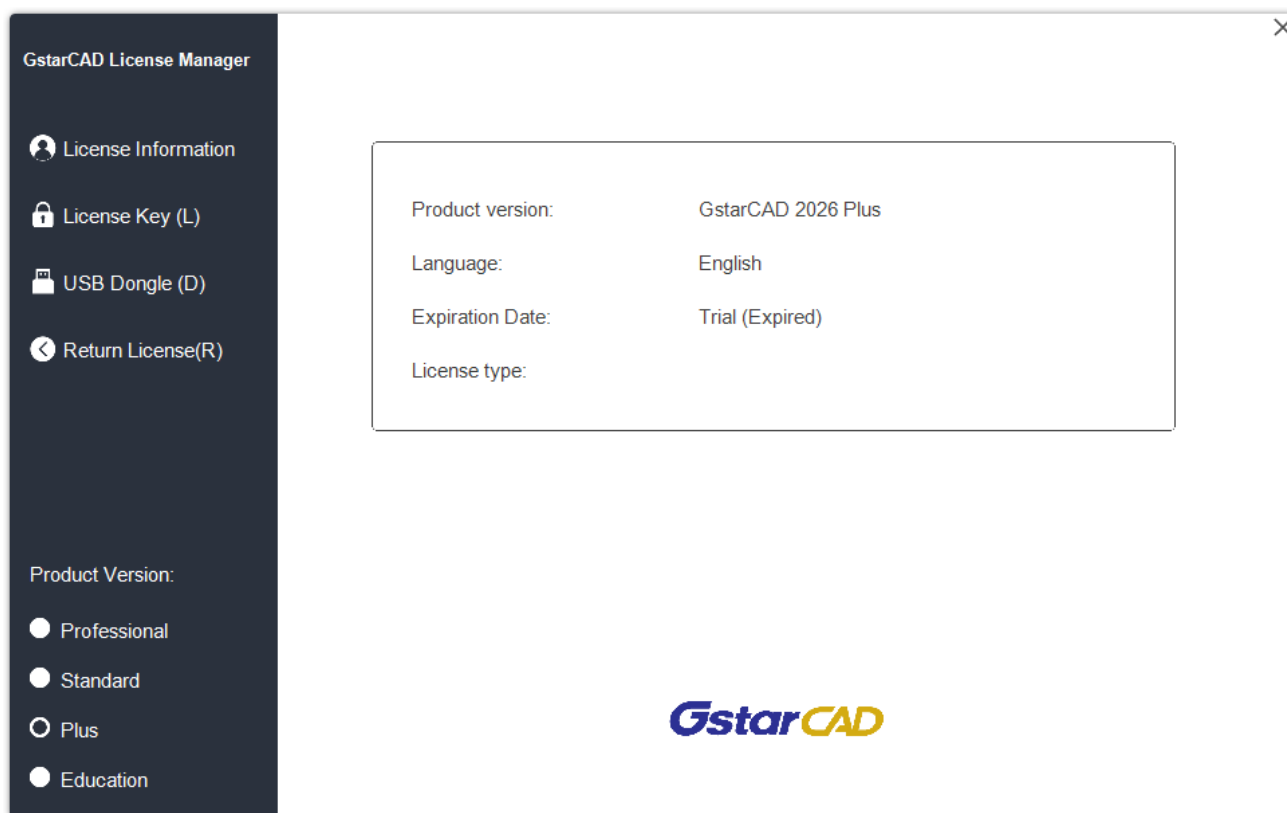
Requirement conditions:

1. Ensure GstarCAD 2026 has to be installed on the computer.
2. It has to be in a same local area network, and connect to server.

Click [Help](#) → [Register](#) to open GstarCAD License Manager in GstarCAD 2026.



Then the following window opens.



5.1. Borrow License from Server

Please follow the steps below to borrow license from server on client side.

1. Click [License Key\(L\)](#) → [Borrow License \(B\)](#) and select a version of GstarCAD (Professional, Standard, Plus and Education).

GstarCAD License Manager

License Information

License Key (L)

USB Dongle (D)

Return License(R)

Product Version:

- ☐ Professional
- ☐ Standard
- ☐ Plus
- ☐ Education

Online Activation(O) Manual Activation(M) **Network License(N)** Borrow License(B)

If you already borrowed a license of higher version, please [ACTIVATE](#) it directly. For a new borrow, please input the following information and click Borrow button.

Server Name/IP: Port (27000-27009): [Query](#)

License Information

Product	Version	Number

Expiration Date: [Borrow](#)

2. Input your [Sever Number/IP](#) and [License Port](#), click [Query](#). And then you can obtain the License Information on the server. Input your [Expiration date](#) and select the license accordingly and click [Borrow](#) button.

GstarCAD License Manager

License Information

License Key (L)

USB Dongle (D)

Return License(R)

Product Version:

- ☐ Professional
- ☐ Standard
- ☐ Plus
- ☐ Education

Online Activation(O) Manual Activation(M) Network License(N) **Borrow License(B)**

If you already borrowed a license of higher version, please [ACTIVATE](#) it directly. For a new borrow, please input the following information and click Borrow button.

Server Name/IP: Port (27000-27009): [Query](#)

License Information

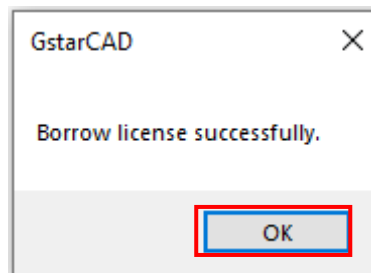
Product	Version	Number
Select the license key		

Expiration Date: [Borrow](#)

Server Name or IP: Input the server IP address (like 192.168.0.166).

Expiration Date: Date to borrow and return. You just only need to fill in the date you return because it is counted from the date when you Borrow click, or you can choose or set the duration.

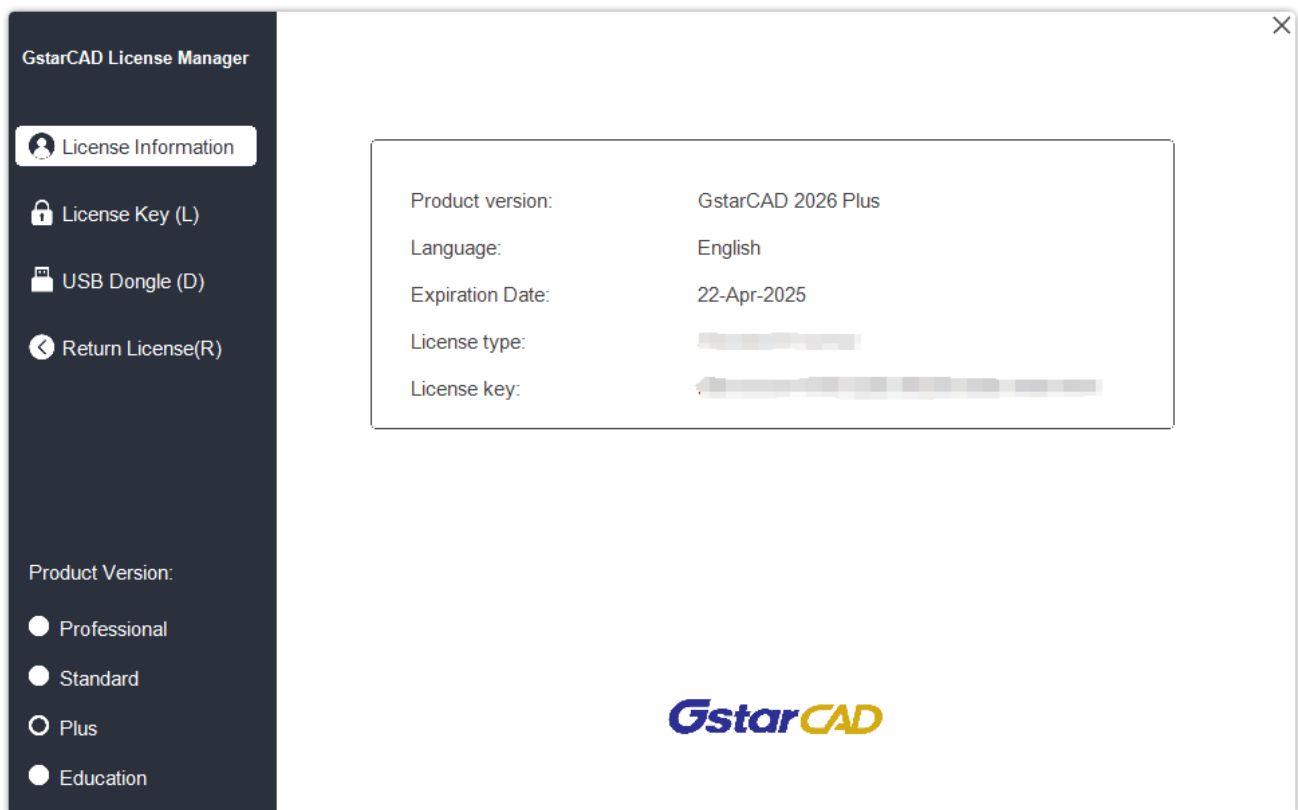
3. And then you can see the following message that means you successfully borrow the license. Click **OK** button and restart your software to finish the process.



5.2. Borrowed Return

It is better to return the borrowed node to server if you do not need it.

1. Open GstarCAD License Manager which you can access from Help menu-Register and click **Return License (R)** button.



2. Click **Borrowed Return (B)** and select the license you want to return. Then Click **Return** button.

GstarCAD License Manager

License Information

License Key (L)

USB Dongle (D)

Return License(R)

Product Version:

Professional

Standard

Plus

Education

Online Return(O) **Manual Return(M)** Borrowed Return(B)

License Information

Product/Version/Language	License key	Status	Expiration date	Trust flag
Select the license key				

Server Name/IP: 192.168.0.66

Port (27000-27009): 27000

Return

3. Click **OK** button to finish the license returning and you can see the license you returned disappears.

GstarCAD

Return license successfully.

OK



GstarCAD 2026

<https://www.gstarcad.net>

Gstarsoft