



HALCON

the Power of Machine Vision

Installation Guide

9.0



All about installing and licensing HALCON, Version 9.0.4

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About This Manual

The manual provides the necessary information to install HALCON and setup the licensing mechanism successfully. It is divided into the following chapters:

- **Introduction**
A short overview of the different HALCON versions, available licensing schemes, and the system requirements.
- **Installing HALCON**
How to install HALCON, either for the first time or in form of an update or upgrade.
- **All About HALCON Licenses**
Detailed information about the different types of licenses and how to obtain and install them.
- **Troubleshooting**
Possible problems and how to solve them.
- **Appendix**
Details like the installed file structure, the relevant environment variables, and information for users of ActivisionTools.

For **further information** about HALCON, please consult the Quick Guide, [section 1.5](#) on page 9, which  gives an overview of the available documentation.

Notation

Except for Linux/UNIX-specific sections, file paths and environment variables are printed in the Windows convention, e.g.,

```
%HALCONROOT%\examples\extension_package\halconuser
```

to denote the subdirectory `halconuser` containing an example package within the HALCON base directory referenced by the environment variable `HALCONROOT` (see [section A.2](#) on page 61 for more information on environment variables). The same expression in Linux/UNIX convention would look like

```
$HALCONROOT/examples/extension_package/halconuser
```


Contents

1	Introduction	7
1.1	HALCON Configurations	7
1.2	Releases and HALCON Versions	8
1.3	Supported Platforms and System Requirements	9
1.4	Licensing	10
2	Installing HALCON	13
2.1	How to Obtain HALCON	13
2.2	Installing HALCON for the First Time	14
2.2.1	DVD (Windows)	14
2.2.2	DVD (UNIX)	16
2.2.3	WWW	18
2.3	Installing Additional Parts of HALCON	18
2.4	Manual Runtime Installation	19
2.5	Updating HALCON	20
2.6	Upgrading HALCON	20
2.7	HALCON Installer Switches under Windows	20
2.8	Uninstalling HALCON	20
2.8.1	Windows	20
2.8.2	UNIX	23
2.9	Managing Multiple HALCON Versions	23
2.10	Switching between Different HALCON Platform Versions under Windows	24
2.11	Installing HALCON Image Acquisition Interfaces	25
2.12	Installing HALCON Extension Packages	25
2.12.1	Using an Extension Package Within HDevelop	25
2.12.2	Using an Extension Package in a Stand-Alone Application	26
3	All About HALCON Licenses	27
3.1	What is a License?	27
3.2	Evaluation Licenses	30
3.3	Development Licenses	32
3.3.1	Node-locked License Bound to a Network Card	33
3.3.2	Node-locked License Bound to a Dongle	34
3.3.3	Floating License Bound to a Network Card or Dongle	35
3.4	Runtime Licenses	38

3.5	How to Upgrade a License	40
4	Troubleshooting	41
4.1	Problems During Installation (Windows)	41
4.2	Problems During Uninstallation (Windows)	42
4.3	Problems Concerning Licenses	47
4.3.1	Extracting Host IDs	47
4.3.2	Dongle Drivers	48
4.3.3	The License Manager Daemon	50
4.4	Troubleshooting in HDevelop or HALCON Applications	55
A	More on the Installation	57
A.1	The Installed File Structure	58
A.2	HALCON's Environment Variables	61
A.2.1	Setting Environment Variables Under Windows	61
A.2.2	Setting Environment Variables Under Linux/UNIX	61
A.2.3	HALCON-Specific Environment Variables	61
A.2.4	General Environment Variables	62
A.3	Information for Users of ActivVisionTools	63
	Index	67

Chapter 1

Introduction

To use HALCON on a computer, you must

1. install HALCON on this computer and
2. obtain a license (except for the demo version).

Before looking into the details of these two steps in [chapter 2](#) on page 13 and [chapter 3](#) on page 27, this chapter gives an overview of the different HALCON versions and licensing methods. Finally, it describes the system requirements for running HALCON.

1.1 HALCON Configurations

You can use HALCON in three configurations:

1. **Development version**

The development version (sometimes also denoted as full version) includes the full spectrum of HALCON, i.e., language interfaces to C, C++, .NET, and COM, interfaces to more than 50 frame grabbers and hundreds of industrial cameras, the Extension Package Interface, which allows you to integrate your own HALCON operators, and, of course, the interactive development tool HDevelop. You need this version whenever you want to develop applications based on HALCON.

2. **Runtime version**

If you have finished developing an application based on HALCON, you only need a runtime version of HALCON for each computer where the application is to be run. Since the runtime version is not determined for developing applications it does not include the development tool HDevelop. Furthermore, you can obtain runtime versions that include only parts of the functionality (so-called *modules*); please contact your local distributor for more information.

3. **Demo version**

The demo version is basically a special version of HDevelop with the full image processing

functionality but some limitations, e.g., without interfaces to image acquisition devices or programming languages. Using the demo version, you can test all HALCON operators within the HDevelop environment for an unlimited amount of time.

1.2 Releases and HALCON Versions

The term *version* has a second meaning: It denotes the major HALCON releases, e.g., HALCON 8.0 or HALCON 9.0, to differentiate them from so-called *maintenance releases* like HALCON 8.0.2. The main differences between these two types of releases are:

- **Functionality**

A new HALCON *version* always represents a major step in the functionality. This means that it contains a significant number of new operators, but possibly also new functionality in HDevelop, e.g., new assistants. Furthermore, the functionality of individual operators may be extended or operators have been sped up. Of course, all currently known bugs in the preceding release will have been fixed.

In contrast, the main intention of a *maintenance release* is to fix all currently known bugs. Nevertheless, such a release typically also brings some speed-ups and minor functional extensions of existing operators.

- **Compatibility**

A new HALCON *version* is not downward compatible, with the following implications: First, you must upgrade your HALCON license (see [section 3.5](#) on page 40). Second, if you want to run applications created with an older release under the new version, you must regenerate the applications, as the new HALCON library is not binary compatible to the old one. The term 'applications' includes also image acquisition interfaces and extension packages you created yourself based on an older release. Note that a new version may also be source-code incompatible in some parts, e.g., the signature of an operator or a class method may have been changed. These changes are indicated in the release notes of the HALCON version. In such a case, you must adapt the source code of your application before regenerating it. Finally, an ActivVisionTools release based on an older HALCON release cannot be directly used with a new HALCON version. For some combinations of ActivVisionTools and HALCON releases this problem is solved during the HALCON installation; please refer to [section A.3](#) on page 63 for more information.

In contrast, a *maintenance release* is in most cases fully downward compatible to its corresponding version. This compatibility includes the license. Please note, however, that some maintenance releases may not be fully binary or source-code compatible because of technical reasons. In such cases, the release notes will contain corresponding warnings and describe how to proceed.

1.3 Supported Platforms and System Requirements

You can use HALCON under Windows, Linux, and Solaris. The summary of system requirements is listed in [table 1.1](#); more details follow below.

Operating System	Processor	Compiler / Environment
Windows	Intel Pentium or compatible (with and without SSE2)	Microsoft Visual Studio 6.0 or higher
Windows x64	Intel EM64T or AMD64	Microsoft Visual Studio 6.0 or higher
Linux	Intel Pentium or compatible (with and without SSE2)	gcc 3.3 *, gcc 4.x
Linux x86_64	Intel EM64T or AMD64	gcc 3.3 *, gcc 4.x
Solaris	SPARC	Sun Studio

(*) corresponding version only available via download

Table 1.1: Platforms supported by HALCON .

Additional Linux Requirements

The Linux distribution has to be LSB compliant. The corresponding packages have to be installed, e.g., redhat-lsb (Fedora, RedHat), lsb (SuSE), lsb-base + lsb-core (Ubuntu).

Furthermore, an XServer has to be installed. This is required even for command-line tools provided with HALCON.

Platform-Specific HALCON Versions

For each of the operating systems listed in [table 1.1](#), platform-specific versions of HALCON's executables and libraries are provided. But in fact there are even more platform-specific versions: For Windows and Linux systems on processors that support the SSE2 instruction set, there is a corresponding, optimized HALCON version. Besides, for each Linux system you can choose between a HALCON version for gcc 3.3 and gcc 4.x.

[Table 1.2](#) on page [12](#) lists all platform-specific versions with detailed system requirements. The name of the currently used version is stored in the environment variable HALCONARCH.

Note that HALCON should also run on newer versions of the operating systems than the ones listed; however, we cannot guarantee this.

HALCONARCH appears in several directory paths: Executable HALCON programs like hdevelop, and DLLs like halcon.dll (Windows only), reside in %HALCONROOT%\bin\%HALCONARCH%. On Windows systems, this path is therefore automatically included in the environment variable PATH; on a Linux/UNIX system, you must include it in your login script.

The libraries that you need for linking programs, e.g., `halcon.lib` (Windows) or `halcon.so` (Linux/UNIX) reside in the directory `%HALCONROOT%\lib\%HALCONARCH%`.

Please note that when creating a 64bit application, both the development computer and the computer on which the application will run must be 64bit platforms. Similarly, when using one of the SSE2-optimized HALCON versions, both development and runtime computer must provide SSE2 instructions. If you run an SSE2-optimized application on a computer without SSE2, the application crashes.

On the other hand, you can use a 32bit HALCON version on a 64bit platform, and a non-SSE2-optimized HALCON on an SSE2 platform without problems.

Further note that in order to create .NET applications under UNIX you need Mono.

Platform-Independent Applications

Even when using a platform-specific version of HALCON, you can still create platform-independent applications, in two ways:

- **With HDevelop**, HALCON's integrated development environment (IDE). HDevelop programs are stored in a platform-independent format, thus, you can run them on any supported platform.
- **With HALCON.NET**, HALCON's interface to .NET programming languages. Applications written in .NET languages are stored in a platform-independent intermediate language, which is then converted by the so-called common language runtime into platform-specific code.

Note that this platform independency is only true when using .NET Framework 2.0, because lower versions do not support 64bit platforms.

You can combine both methods by using `HDevEngine/.NET` to run HDevelop programs from a HALCON.NET application.

1.4 Licensing

To run HALCON on a computer, you need a license. The only exception to this rule is the HALCON demo version, i.e., the demo version of the development tool HDevelop, which can be run without a license. The license itself is stored in a file named `license.dat` and resides in the subdirectory `license` of the folder where you installed HALCON.

Licenses are always issued for a certain HALCON version (i.e., major release, see [section 1.2](#) on page 8), e.g., for HALCON 9.0. However, a license is not exclusively bound to this version: It is *upward compatible within the version number*, i.e., licenses for HALCON 9.0 are also valid for HALCON 9.0.1.

If you want to use different HALCON versions at the same time, from version 7.1 on the name of the license file is not restricted to “`license.dat`” anymore. Now, it has to begin with “`license`” and end with “`.dat`”, but in between other information can be included. Thus, different licenses for different versions (e.g., `license90.dat` for version 9.0) can be stored in the same directory.

The three possible licensing types mainly correspond to the different HALCON versions described in [section 1.1](#) on page 7. Detailed information about HALCON licenses can be found in [chapter 3](#) on page 27.

- **Evaluation license**

To evaluate the full power of HALCON, you can obtain an evaluation license from your local distributor free of charge. This type of license is not bound to any computer hardware, i.e., you can use HALCON on any computer you installed it on; however, it is only valid for a limited time, typically for a month. Note that you may not use this license to develop commercial applications.

- **Development license**

To develop HALCON applications, whether in HDevelop or via a programming language, you need a development license. In contrast to the evaluation license, this license is permanent. Furthermore, this license is bound to a certain hardware component (network card or dongle, see [section 3.1](#) on page 27).

If you want to use HALCON on multiple computers simultaneously, you need a license for each of them. You can either obtain multiple *node-locked licenses*, or, if the computers are connected via a network, you can also use a *floating license*. The main point of using floating licenses is that you do not need to specify on which computers you want to run HALCON, but only on how many of them simultaneously. Floating licenses are described in detail in [section 3.3.3](#) on page 35.

- **Runtime license**

If you finished developing your application based on HALCON and now want to install and run it on a customer's computer, you only need a runtime license. Like development licenses, runtime licenses are permanent and bound to a certain hardware component (network card or dongle); note, however, that there are no floating runtime licenses.

As already noted, you can obtain runtime licenses that cover only parts of the functionality (so-called *modules*). Please contact your local distributor for more information.

HALCONARCH	Operating System, Processor	Compiler
x86-win32	Windows NT/2000/XP/2003/Vista/2008/7, on Intel Pentium or compatible	Visual Studio 6.0 or higher
x86sse2-win32	Windows NT/2000/XP/2003/Vista/2008/7, on x86 processor with SSE2 extension, e.g., Intel Pentium 4 / AMD Athlon64 or newer	Visual Studio 6.0 or higher
x64-win64	Windows XP/2003/Vista/2008/7 x64 Edition, on Intel EM64T or AMD64	Visual Studio 2005 or higher
x86-linux2.4-gcc40	Linux, Kernel 2.4 or higher, libc.so.6 (GLIBC_2.3.2 or higher), libstdc++.so.6 (GLIBCXX_3.4 or higher), on Intel Pentium or compatible	gcc 3.4/4.x
x86sse2-linux2.4-gcc40	Linux, Kernel 2.4 or higher, libc.so.6 (GLIBC_2.3.2 or higher), libstdc++.so.6 (GLIBCXX_3.4 or higher), on x86 processor with SSE2 extension, e.g., Intel Pentium 4 / AMD Athlon64 or newer	gcc 3.4/4.x
x64-linux2.4-gcc40	Linux x86_64, Kernel 2.4 or higher, libc.so.6 (GLIBC_2.3.4 or higher), libstdc++.so.6 (GLIBCXX_3.4 or higher), on Intel EM64T or AMD64	gcc 3.4/4.x
x86-linux2.4-gcc33*	Linux, Kernel 2.4 or higher, libc.so.6 (GLIBC_2.3.2 or higher), libstdc++.so.5 (GLIBCPP_3.2 or higher), on Intel Pentium or compatible	gcc 3.2/3.3
x86sse2-linux2.4-gcc33*	Linux, Kernel 2.4 or higher, libc.so.6 (GLIBC_2.3.2 or higher), libstdc++.so.5 (GLIBCPP_3.2 or higher), on x86 processor with SSE2 extension, e.g., Intel Pentium 4 / AMD Athlon64 or newer	gcc 3.2/3.3
x64-linux2.4-gcc33*	Linux x86_64, Kernel 2.4 or higher, libc.so.6 (GLIBC_2.3.4 or higher), libstdc++.so.5 (GLIBCPP_3.2 or higher), on Intel EM64T or AMD64	gcc 3.2/3.3
sparc-sun-solaris9	Solaris 9, on UltraSPARC Workstations	Sun Studio 9 or higher

(*) corresponding version only available via download

Table 1.2: Values of HALCONARCH and detailed system requirements.

Chapter 2

Installing HALCON

In this chapter, we show how to

- install HALCON for the first time ([section 2.2](#)),
- install additional parts ([section 2.3](#) on page 18),
- manually install a runtime version of HALCON ([section 2.4](#) on page 19),
- update HALCON to a newer maintenance release ([section 2.5](#) on page 20), and
- upgrade HALCON to a newer version ([section 2.6](#) on page 20).

Furthermore, this chapter explains how to

- uninstall HALCON ([section 2.8](#) on page 20),
- manage multiple versions in parallel ([section 2.9](#) on page 23),
- switch between HALCON for 32-bit and 64-bit Windows or vice versa ([section 2.10](#) on page 24),
- install updates of image acquisition interfaces ([section 2.11](#) on page 25), and
- install extension packages ([section 2.12](#) on page 25).

2.1 How to Obtain HALCON

You can obtain HALCON in form of a DVD from your local distributor, or by downloading it from <http://www.halcon.com/download>. The DVD includes all HALCON configurations (see [section 1.1](#)) while the download provides separate files for the different configurations. Note that maintenance releases are typically not available on DVD.

2.2 Installing HALCON for the First Time

In the following sections, we explain how to install HALCON for the first time

- from DVD on Windows systems: [section 2.2.1](#)
- from DVD on Linux/UNIX systems: [section 2.2.2](#) on page 16
- via WWW: [section 2.2.3](#) on page 18



Please note, that **you need administrator privileges** to install HALCON under Windows.

2.2.1 Installing HALCON from DVD under Windows



To install HALCON on Windows systems, simply insert the DVD. This should automatically start the setup program. If the **setup program doesn't start automatically**, execute the program `setup.exe` located in the directory `install-windows` of the DVD.

Step 1: Internal checks, license agreement

First, the setup program checks whether your system meets the requirements for running HALCON (see [section 1.3](#) on page 9). Besides, it checks whether you already installed HALCON on this computer. If not, a license agreement is displayed; its text is stored in the file `eula.txt`, which will be installed in the folder you select for the installation.

If you are using `ActivVisionTools`, the setup program checks whether the installed version is compatible to the current HALCON version. Please refer to [section A.3](#) on page 63 for more information.

Step 2: Select installation destination

After these checks you can choose a folder where HALCON is to be installed, e.g., `C:\Program Files\MVTec\HALCON`.

Step 3: Select installation type

Then, you are asked to select between the following installation types which correspond to the HALCON configurations described in [section 1.1](#) on page 7. Note that you can install additional parts of HALCON at a later time by starting the setup program again and selecting the parts you need (see [section 2.3](#) on page 18).

Full

This installs the complete development version of HALCON, i.e., the full set of libraries and executables including interfaces to image acquisition devices and programming languages. Furthermore, it installs the full documentation including the [Solution Guide I](#), the [Solution Guide II](#), the [Solution Guide III](#), the Reference Manuals for the programming language interfaces C, C++, .NET, and COM, and the full set of example programs (see [section A.1](#) on page 58 for an overview), including all necessary images and image sequences.

Compact

This installs a minimal development version of HALCON, i.e., besides the full set of libraries and executables including interfaces to image acquisition devices and programming languages the installation encompasses only the User's Manuals and the Reference Manual in HDevelop syntax. Note that neither examples nor images are installed.

Demo

This installs the demo version of HALCON, i.e., the demo version of HDevelop without interfaces to image acquisition devices or programming languages. The installed documentation encompasses the User's Manuals, the [Solution Guide I](#), and the Reference Manual in HDevelop syntax. Furthermore, the HDevelop example programs and the images and image sequences used by these examples are installed. Please note, however, that some of the large images sequences are not installed; this means that example programs based on such an image sequence cannot be run. You can install these sequences in a separate step as described in [section 2.3](#) on page 18.

Runtime

This installs the runtime version of HALCON, i.e., only the set of libraries including interfaces to image acquisition devices and programming languages that are necessary to run a HALCON application. Naturally, this type of installation encompasses neither documentation, examples nor images.

Custom

Like the Full and the Compact installation, this type installs the development version of HALCON. As its name suggests, it lets you select which parts of the documentation, examples, and images you want to be installed. Note that some HALCON experience is required to handle this type of installation.

Step 4: Selections concerning licensing

After this selection, the setup program asks whether to install the driver programs that are necessary if you want to use a dongle-bound license. [Section 3.3.2](#) on page 34 provides detailed information about these dongle drivers, including how to install them manually if you do not let the setup program install them.

The next dialog asks whether the computer is to act as the so-called *floating license server*. In this case, the setup program installs the so-called *license manager daemon*, a system service that manages your floating licenses. Note that when using floating licenses, you need to install the license manager daemon only on one computer: the license server. Please refer to [section 3.3.3](#) on page 35 for more information about floating licenses, e.g., how to install the license manager daemon manually.

Step 5: The actual installation

After some further questions the actual installation starts, which includes copying files from the DVD to the destination folder (see [section A.1](#) on page 58 for an overview of HALCON's fileset), entering information in the Windows registry, and setting environment variables (see also [section A.2](#) on page 61). Depending on the installation type and content, it may be necessary to reboot the computer after the installation is finished.

Apart from that, no further action on your part is required. You can immediately use HALCON, e.g., experiment with the demo version of HDevelop if you have not obtained a license yet. A good starting

point is the Windows start menu, via which you can read the manuals or the release notes, or start HDevelop. In case that you have already obtained a license from your local distributor, you can now proceed with the installation of the license file `license.dat` (or similar) which has to be placed in the directory `%HALCONROOT%\license`.

Optionally, you can optimize HALCON's automatic operator parallelization to your computer as described in the Programmer's Guide, [section 2.1.1](#) on page 17.

2.2.2 Installing HALCON from DVD under Linux/UNIX

To install HALCON on Linux or UNIX systems, mount the DVD, e.g., on the directory `/cdrom`. On some systems, you need `root` rights to do so. Note that on some systems, most notably Linux, the default mount entry, in `/etc/fstab`, does not allow users to execute programs on a DVD. In such cases, you have to mount the DVD explicitly with a command similar to the following (consult your operating system documentation for details):

```
mount -t iso9660 /dev/dvd /media/dvd
```

To start the installation, execute the shell script `install-unix.sh`, which is located in the top-level directory of the DVD, e.g. by calling

```
sh -c install-unix.sh
```

Step 1: Internal checks, license agreement

First, the setup program checks whether your system meets the requirements for running HALCON (see [section 1.3](#) on page 9). Then, a license agreement is displayed; its text is stored in the file `eula.txt`, which will be installed in the directory you select for the installation.

Step 2: Select installation destination

The script will ask you in which directory you want to install HALCON; the environment variable `HALCONROOT` must be set to this directory later; see below. If the directory does not exist yet, the script offers to create it. On the other hand, if HALCON was already installed in the selected directory, the script asks whether to remove the old installation completely or replace existing files with the new ones.

Step 3: Select installation type

Then, you are asked to select between different installation types, which correspond to those described in [section 2.2.1](#) on page 14. Note that you can install additional parts of HALCON at any time by mounting the DVD again and copying the corresponding directories and files to the directory where you installed HALCON (see [section 2.3](#) on page 18). You can also execute the shell script `install-unix` once again to install additional parts of HALCON.

Step 4: The actual installation

Now, the actual installation starts, i.e., the requested parts are copied from the DVD to the destination directory.

```
#!/bin/sh
# Sample shell script for HALCON environment settings
# (sh syntax)

export HALCONARCH=x86-linux2.4-gcc33
export HALCONROOT=/opt/halcon
export PATH=${PATH}:${HALCONROOT}/bin/${HALCONARCH}:\
    ${HALCONROOT}/FLEXlm/${HALCONARCH}

if [ $LD_LIBRARY_PATH ] ; then
    export LD_LIBRARY_PATH=${LD_LIBRARY_PATH}:${HALCONROOT}/lib/${HALCONARCH}
else
    export LD_LIBRARY_PATH=${HALCONROOT}/lib/${HALCONARCH}
fi
```

Figure 2.1: Example for a shell script with environment variables in `sh` syntax, generated when installing HALCON into the directory `/opt/halcon` on a Linux system.

Step 5: Set environment variables

After the installation, the following environment variables must be set or modified in order for HALCON to work (see [section A.2](#) on page 61 for more information about these and other environment variables):

- `$HALCONROOT`: directory you installed HALCON in
- `HALCONARCH`: select value corresponding to the used platform (see [table 1.2](#) on page 12)
- `PATH`: this system variable should include `$HALCONROOT/bin/$HALCONARCH` and `$HALCONROOT/FLEXlm/$HALCONARCH`
- `LD_LIBRARY_PATH`: this system variable should include `$HALCONROOT/lib/$HALCONARCH`

We recommend to set the environment variables in a login script or a shell resource script, e.g., `.cshrc` or `.profile`. **The installation script automatically creates two example shell scripts `.cshrc_halcon` and `.profile_halcon` in `$HALCONROOT` which contain the necessary settings in `csh` and `sh` syntax, see [figure 2.1](#). The suitable shell script can be used to be included in your login script. Note that different shells offer different commands to set environment variables, e.g., `setenv <variable> <value>` or `export <variable>=<value>`. Please consult your shell's documentation for further information. If a value consists of multiple items, those items must be separated by *colons*.**



Step 6: Further configuration

If you are using *floating licenses*, you must install and start the license manager daemon as described in [section 4.3.3](#) on page 50.

If you want to use a dongle-bound license (Linux only), see [section 4.3.2.3](#) on page 49 for information how to install the USB dongle driver.

Optionally, you can optimize HALCON's automatic operator parallelization to your computer as described in the Programmer's Guide, [section 2.1.1](#) on page 17.

Apart from that, no further action on your part is required. You can immediately use HALCON, e.g., experiment with the demo version of HDevelop if you have not obtained a license yet. In case that you have already obtained a license from your local distributor, you can now proceed with the installation of the license file `license.dat` which has to be placed in the directory `$HALCONROOT/license`.

2.2.3 Installing HALCON via WWW

All HALCON releases can be downloaded from <http://www.halcon.com/download>. Note that you must first register yourself before downloading software. Note that the registration process differentiates between the demo and the full version. How to download and install HALCON via WWW is described in detail on the web pages themselves.

2.3 Installing Additional Parts of HALCON

Windows systems

On Windows systems, you can install additional parts of HALCON at any time by starting the setup program another time, e.g., by inserting the DVD.

If you downloaded the full version of HALCON via WWW as described in [section 2.2.3](#), you get a similar behavior by starting the downloaded executable again.

Linux/UNIX systems

On Linux/UNIX systems, you can install additional parts of HALCON at any time by mounting the DVD again and copying the corresponding directories and files to the directory where you installed HALCON. To copy directories, open a shell, change into the root directory on the DVD, and type

```
tar -cf - <directory_to_be_copied> | ( cd $HALCONROOT; tar -xf - )
```

2.4 Manually Installing a Runtime Version of HALCON on Windows

Usually, when a machine vision application is finished it has to be set up at a production site. This involves installing HALCON runtime versions on a number of computers. Depending on that number, single installations from DVD can become a nuisance. Quite often, a software distribution tool or script-based solution is used to install required programs on the client computers. This section shows the relevant steps of installing a HALCON runtime version manually. With this knowledge, the task of software distribution can be automated.

As an alternative, please note that a separate runtime installer is available for download. This stripped-down installer features a silent installation mode. See [section 2.2.3](#) on page 18 for download information.

1. Set the environment variables HALCONROOT and HALCONARCH. See also [section A.2](#) on page 61.
2. Copy the required runtime DLLs to, e.g., `C:\%HALCONROOT%\bin\%HALCONARCH%` (see [table 1.2](#) on page 12 for values of the environment variable HALCONARCH). The following DLLs are required: `halcon.dll`, the relevant HALCON language interface used by the application, e.g., `halconcpp.dll`, and, if used, the appropriate image acquisition device interface, e.g., `hAcq1394I IDC.dll`.

If you want to use HALCON/.NET, you must also copy the corresponding assemblies to the directory `%HALCONROOT%\bin\dotnet10` or `%HALCONROOT%\bin\dotnet20` (also see the Programmer's Guide, [section 10.1](#) on page 86).

If the application uses HALCON XL, the relevant DLLs or assemblies with the suffix `x1` must be copied instead.

The HALCON DLLs must never be found in the `%PATH%` twice or even multiple times. Additionally, it is highly recommended not to copy the HALCON DLLs into the Windows system directories (`C:\%WINDIR%`, `C:\%WINDIR%\system`, and `C:\%WINDIR%\system32`).

3. Add the directory with the HALCON DLLs to the `%PATH%` environment variable, e.g., `C:\%HALCONROOT%\bin\%HALCONARCH%`. This step is not required if the application resides in the same directory as the DLLs.
4. Register `halconx.dll` (or `halconx1.dll` if the application uses the HALCON/COM interface). To do this, execute `regsvr32 halconx.dll` in the directory where the file resides.
5. Register `hdevenginex.dll` (or `hdevenginex1.dll` if the application uses HDevEngine). To do this, execute `regsvr32 hdevenginex.dll` in the directory where the file resides.
6. Copy the HALCON help files to `%HALCONROOT%\help`.
7. Copy the license file `license.dat` (or similar, see [section 1.4](#) on page 10) to `%HALCONROOT%\license`.
8. If you are using dongle-based licensing, the corresponding dongle driver needs to be installed as well.
9. Depending on the application, one or more of the following directories need to be copied to `%HALCONROOT%` as well: `calib`, `filter`, `lut`, `ocr`, `procedures`.

2.5 Updating HALCON

With HALCON, the term “update” means to install a newer maintenance release over a release based on the same HALCON version, e.g., HALCON 8.0.1 over 8.0. As described in [section 1.2](#) on page 8, you can update HALCON without needing a new license.

Typically, maintenance releases are not available as a DVD, i.e., you must install them via WWW as described in [section 2.2.3](#) on page 18. When updating an existing HALCON installation under Windows the setup program will ask you whether you want to replace the already installed components with the updated ones.

2.6 Upgrading HALCON



With HALCON, the term “upgrade” means to install a newer version over an older one, e.g., HALCON 9.0 over 8.0 or 8.0.1. As described in [section 1.2](#) on page 8, new versions are not compatible to older ones. Therefore, we recommend to **uninstall the older HALCON release before installing the new one**. On Windows systems, this is especially important in order to clean up the registry.

The easiest way to uninstall the older version on Windows is to start the installation of the new version, because the setup program offers to perform the uninstallation for you if it detects an older version. More information regarding uninstalling HALCON can be found in [section 2.8](#). If you want to keep the older version, please refer to [section 2.9](#) on page 23.

The installation process itself is the same as the first-time installation described in [section 2.2](#) on page 14. Please note that after installing the new version you must upgrade the license as described in [section 3.5](#) on page 40.

2.7 HALCON Installer Switches under Windows

The installation process under Windows can be customized by calling the setup program with designated switches. This can be done from a Windows command prompt, or from a custom batch file. The following switches are recognized:

```
/CPU=[x86 | x86sse2 | x64]      Force architecture.  
/LANG=[english | german | japanese] Force language pack.
```

2.8 Uninstalling HALCON

2.8.1 Uninstalling HALCON under Windows

The preferred method to uninstall HALCON is to use the automatic uninstallation program as described in the following section. In case you want to keep track of what is happening to your system, you may want to follow the instructions given in [section 2.8.1.2](#).

2.8.1.1 Uninstalling Automatically

There are multiple ways to uninstall HALCON; please note that not all are available for older versions of HALCON:

1. Select Start ▸ Programs ▸ MVTec HALCON ▸ Uninstall HALCON in the Windows start menu.
2. Choose Add/Remove Programs in the system control panel.
3. When installing HALCON, the setup program checks whether there is an old version of HALCON and allows you to uninstall it. Note that during updating an existing HALCON installation under Windows the setup program will ask you whether you want to replace the already installed components with the updated ones.

Typically, this is all you have to do. If you encounter any problems, please refer to [section 4.2](#) on page 42.

Note that **the uninstallation removes exactly those files that were installed**. This has two implications: If you added files after the installation manually, e.g., new image acquisition interfaces, extension packages, images, or manuals, these files and the corresponding directories will “survive” the uninstallation. On the other hand, if you only modified a file, e.g., an example, without changing its name the uninstallation will remove it nevertheless. Therefore you might want to copy such files to another directory before starting the uninstallation.



The uninstallation process will not remove any *user-specific settings*. This means that registry entries concerning, e.g., the layout of HDevelop or its file history, will be left in the category HKEY_CURRENT_USER ▸ Software ▸ MVTec ▸ HALCON. You may remove these entries manually without risk. Furthermore, it does not remove the dongle drivers as they might be needed by another application; [section 3.3.2](#) on page 34 describes how to remove them manually.

2.8.1.2 Uninstalling Manually

The commands given in the following description should be entered in a Windows command prompt, which can be obtained by entering `cmd.exe` in the dialog Start ▸ Run. You need administrator privileges to perform the uninstallation.

1. Unregister the HALCON/COM interface and the COM version of HDevEngine. If you have been using HALCON XL, append the suffix `x1` to the `.dll` files in the following commands (thus, `halconx.dll` becomes `halconxx1.dll`, for example).

```
regsvr32 /u "%HALCONROOT%\bin\%HALCONARCH%\halconx.dll"  
regsvr32 /u "%HALCONROOT%\bin\%HALCONARCH%\hdevenginex.dll"
```

If you are using Windows x64, the corresponding commands are slightly different:

64-bit version:

```
C:\WINDOWS\system32\regsvr32 /u "%HALCONROOT%\bin\%HALCONARCH%\halconx.dll"
C:\WINDOWS\system32\regsvr32 /u "%HALCONROOT%\bin\%HALCONARCH%\hdevenginex.dll"
```

32-bit version:

```
C:\WINDOWS\SysWOW64\system32\regsvr32 /u
"%HALCONROOT%\bin\%HALCONARCH%\halconx.dll"
C:\WINDOWS\SysWOW64\system32\regsvr32 /u
"%HALCONROOT%\bin\%HALCONARCH%\hdevenginex.dll"
```

2. For extensive cleaning of the Windows registry you can optionally run the program `misc\%HALCONARCH%\clean_reg_halconx.exe` from the HALCON installation DVD.
3. Delete the installation directory. You can also use Windows Explorer to do this. Please note that **the license file and any local additions to this directory will be lost**. A backup of these files is highly recommended.

```
rmdir /S "%HALCONROOT%"
```

4. Delete all HALCON registry keys. Replace `x.x` at the end of the following command with the version number you are uninstalling. Alternatively, start `regedit.exe` to use the Windows registry editor to delete the keys.

```
reg delete HKLM\SOFTWARE\MVTec\HALCON\x.x
```

You can query all installed versions of HALCON using this command:

```
reg query HKLM\SOFTWARE\MVTec\HALCON
```

5. Delete all environment variables set by HALCON. The indented lines must be appended to the preceding lines separated by a space character. See [section A.2](#) on page 61 on how to edit environment variables using the Windows GUI. Please also use the GUI to manually remove the HALCON binary directory from the environment variable `PATH`.

```
reg delete "HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Session Manager\Environment"
/V HALCONROOT
reg delete "HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Session Manager\Environment"
/V HALCONARCH
reg delete "HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Session Manager\Environment"
/V HALCONIMAGES
```

6. Delete the uninstall information created when HALCON was installed. Replace `<ID>` with the actual HALCON GUID, which depends on the installed version:
 - HALCON 6.1 → BBEC9F40-4A36-11D6-A14C-00E0296C2846
 - HALCON 7.0 → 47F424B4-1077-11D8-A0D3-00E01883F42C
 - HALCON 7.1 → 0B2DE0B7-FD31-11D9-A19F-00E01883F42C
 - HALCON 8.0 → 096CE3F7-2FD9-4460-A270-F9F4740DB91B

```
rmdir /S "%ProgramFiles%\InstallShield Installation Information\{<ID>}"
reg delete HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Uninstall\{<ID>}
```

For HALCON 9.0, please use the following key:

```
reg delete HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Uninstall\
MVTec HALCON 9.0
```

2.8.2 Uninstalling HALCON under Linux/UNIX

HALCON provides no uninstallation script for Linux/UNIX systems, therefore you must perform the uninstallation manually. In case that you are using a floating license you have to uninstall the floating license daemon as well (see [section 3.3.3](#) on page 35).

Please note: The following procedure will **delete your local additions to the HALCON base directory**. To check for any local additions and changes beforehand, mount the HALCON DVD, e.g., on `/media/dvd` and run

```
diff -q -r /media/dvd $HALCONROOT | grep $HALCONROOT
```

The actual uninstallation consists of simply removing the content of the HALCON base directory `$HALCONROOT` and all its subdirectories, e.g., by executing

```
rm -rf $HALCONROOT
```

Furthermore, remove the subdirectory `.hdevelop` of the directory referenced by the environment variable `HOME` (see [section A.2](#) on page 61); `Hdevelop` creates this directory to save options, window positions, and the file history.

Finally, delete references to HALCON from the environment variables (see [section 2.2.2](#) on page 16).

To remove the dongle driver, refer to [section 4.3.2.3](#) on page 49.

2.9 Managing Multiple HALCON Versions

Linux/UNIX systems

On Linux/UNIX systems, you can switch between different HALCON versions by setting the environment variable `HALCONROOT` accordingly. Note that in order for this method to work, paths based on `HALCONROOT` in other environment variables like `PATH` and `LD_LIBRARY_PATH` must use the variable and not its content. See [figure 2.1](#) on page 17 for an example.



Windows systems

Under Windows, you must adapt those environment variables that are set during the installation, i.e., HALCONROOT, HALCONARCH, PATH, and HALCONIMAGES, and those you set yourself (e.g., HALCONEXTENSIONS). Please refer to [section A.2](#) on page 61 for more information about setting environment variables.

If you are using the HALCON/COM interface or HDevEngine, you must also re-register the corresponding DLLs `halconx.dll` or `hdevenginex.dll`, for example as follows: Open a Windows Command Prompt and change into the subdirectory `bin\%HALCONARCH%` of the root directory of your “old” HALCON installation (please note that versions older than HALCON 8.0 did not set the environment variable HALCONARCH and used different names for the platform-specific subdirectories!). Unregister `halconx.dll` or `hdevenginex.dll` by typing

```
regsvr32 /u halconx.dll
regsvr32 /u hdevenginex.dll
```

Then change into the corresponding subdirectory of your other HALCON installation and register its `halconx.dll` or `hdevenginex.dll` by typing

```
regsvr32 halconx.dll
regsvr32 hdevenginex.dll
```

With the same method, re-register `hdevenginex.dll`, i.e., the DLL of the COM version of HDevEngine.

If you are using HALCON/COM XL, you must re-register `halconxxl.dll` and `hdevenginexxl.dll` instead.

As an alternative to the Command Prompt, you can unregister and register `halconx.dll` or `hdevenginex.dll` via the dialog `Start > Run` together with the Windows Explorer: In the latter, “open” the directory `bin\%HALCONARCH%` of the root directory of your old HALCON installation. Now, type `regsvr32 /u` in the dialog `Run` and then drag and drop `halconx.dll` or `hdevenginex.dll` from the Explorer into the dialog, where it automatically appears with the full path. To execute the command, click `OK`. Then, open the directory `bin\%HALCONARCH%` of the root directory of the other HALCON installation in the Explorer, type `regsvr32` in the dialog `Run`, drag and drop `halconx.dll` or `hdevenginex.dll` from the Explorer into the dialog, and again click `OK`.

Please note that if you are using `ActivVisionTools`, you may have to register another `ActivVisionTools OCX` (see [section A.3](#) on page 63).

2.10 Switching between Different HALCON Platform Versions under Windows

As described in [section 1.3](#) on page 9, HALCON is provided for different platforms. However, only the first installation sets the environment variable `PATH` (see [section A.2](#) on page 61). If you want to switch e.g., from Windows 32-bit to Windows 64-bit or from a non-SSE2 platform to one supporting SSE2, you must adapt the environment variable `HALCONARCH` accordingly (see [table 1.2](#) on page 12), which is referenced in `PATH`.

2.11 Installing HALCON Image Acquisition Interfaces

With every HALCON installation (except the demo version), you automatically obtain the latest release of the currently available image acquisition interfaces (see also [section A.1](#) on page 58). In between HALCON releases, however, image acquisition interfaces might be updated by MVTec or a manufacturer of an image acquisition device. Such updates are indicated on MVTec's WWW server, to which you can connect by selecting HDevelop's menu entry `Help > HALCON News (WWW)`. You can then download the interface together with its documentation and HDevelop example programs, and install it as described on the corresponding web pages.

2.12 Installing HALCON Extension Packages

The HALCON Extension Package Interface enables you to integrate newly developed image processing algorithms into HALCON in the form of so-called *extension packages*. The same mechanism is used by MVTec to extend the current HALCON release with additional functionality. Which extensions packages are currently available can be checked by selecting HDevelop's menu entry `Help > HALCON News (WWW)`, which connects to MVTec's WWW server.

This section describes how to integrate a (downloaded) package named `newextpkg` in order to use it within your HALCON system.

First, move the package to the directory `%HALCONROOT%` and unpack it there. Then, add the *complete* path of the package, e.g.,

```
%HALCONROOT%\packages\newextpkg
```

to the environment variable `HALCONEXTENSIONS`. Note, that the delimiter between paths in an environment variable is a semicolon on Windows systems and a colon on Linux/UNIX systems.

Never change the name of an extension package or the corresponding names of the libraries or DLLs contained in it. These names are encoded *within* the libraries/DLLs. If you change the names this information will no longer match. Thus, the loader of the operating system will fail to open the dynamic libraries.



If the package contains images used, e.g., within example programs we recommend to include the (complete) path to the corresponding directory `images` within the package in the environment variable `HALCONIMAGES` (see [section A.2](#) on page 61) to access those images without specifying a complete path.

2.12.1 Using an Extension Package Within HDevelop

In order to use a new package within HDevelop under Windows or Solaris, you just need to restart the program. HDevelop automatically integrates all extension packages specified in `HALCONEXTENSIONS`, i.e., the operators contained in a package can be accessed and used like any other HALCON operator.

Under Linux/UNIX, you must include the package library subdirectory (i.e., `lib/$HALCONARCH`) in the environment variable `LD_LIBRARY_PATH` before starting HDevelop the first time (see [table 1.2](#) on page 12 for the possible values of `HALCONARCH`).

2.12.2 Using an Extension Package in a Stand-Alone Application

If you want to generate a stand-alone application that uses an extension package, you have to link the package libraries (DLLs under Windows, shared libraries under Linux/UNIX) to the application code, in addition to the HALCON library.

2.12.2.1 Using an Extension Package Under Windows

In order to create new application programs you have to link the corresponding language interface library, e.g., `packagecpp.lib` for a C++ application, to your objects. Furthermore, you will need the HALCON interface library, in the example of a C++ application `halconcpp.lib`, as for any HALCON application.

To be able to link the package DLL to your application program, the *complete* DLL file path of the new package, e.g.,

```
%HALCONROOT%\packages\newextpkg\bin\%HALCONARCH%
```

must be added to the environment variable `PATH` (see [table 1.2](#) on page 12 for the possible values of `HALCONARCH`).



Do not copy a package DLL into the Windows system directories, as it would be loaded twice in this case!

2.12.2.2 Using an Extension Package Under Linux/UNIX

In order to create new application programs, you must link `libnewextpkg.so` and the corresponding language interface library, e.g., `libnewextpkgcpp.so` for a C++ application, to your objects (besides `libhalcon.so` and the HALCON interface library, in the example of a C++ application `libhalcon-cpp.so`, as for any HALCON application).

Furthermore, you have to add the path to the package library subdirectory `lib/$HALCONARCH` to the environment variable `LD_LIBRARY_PATH`, otherwise the loader will fail to access the libraries.

Chapter 3

All About HALCON Licenses

Section 1.4 on page 10 already contained an overview of the possible licensing schemes. In this chapter, you will find detailed information about how to obtain and install

- evaluation licenses (section 3.2 on page 30),
- development licenses (section 3.3 on page 32), and
- runtime licenses (section 3.4 on page 38),

Finally, section 3.5 on page 40 shows how to upgrade a license.

3.1 What is a License?

HALCON's licensing mechanisms are based on the license manager software *FLEXlm* from Macrovision. The licenses themselves are stored in so-called *license files*; example files are depicted in the following sections. The content of these files specifies

- what is licensed (e.g., HALCON 9.0 development version, runtime version, etc.)
- whether the license is temporary (evaluation license) or permanent
- the hardware to which the license is bound (see below)
- additional information for floating licenses.

License files are named `license.dat` (or `license90.dat` or similar, see section 1.4 on page 10) and reside in the subdirectory `license` of the folder where you installed HALCON. **Note that HALCON will not run if you modify the license keys within the license file manually!**



Available Licenses

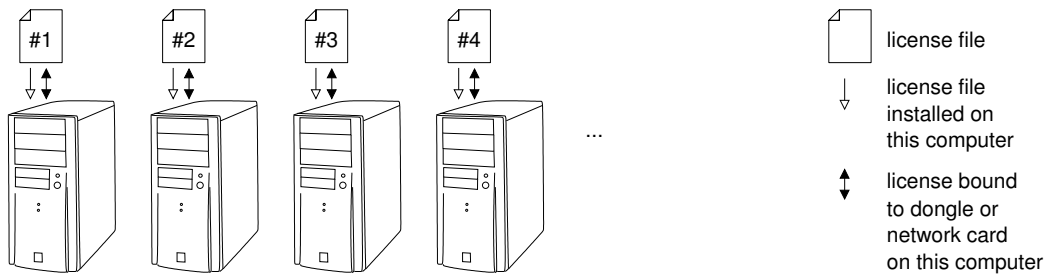
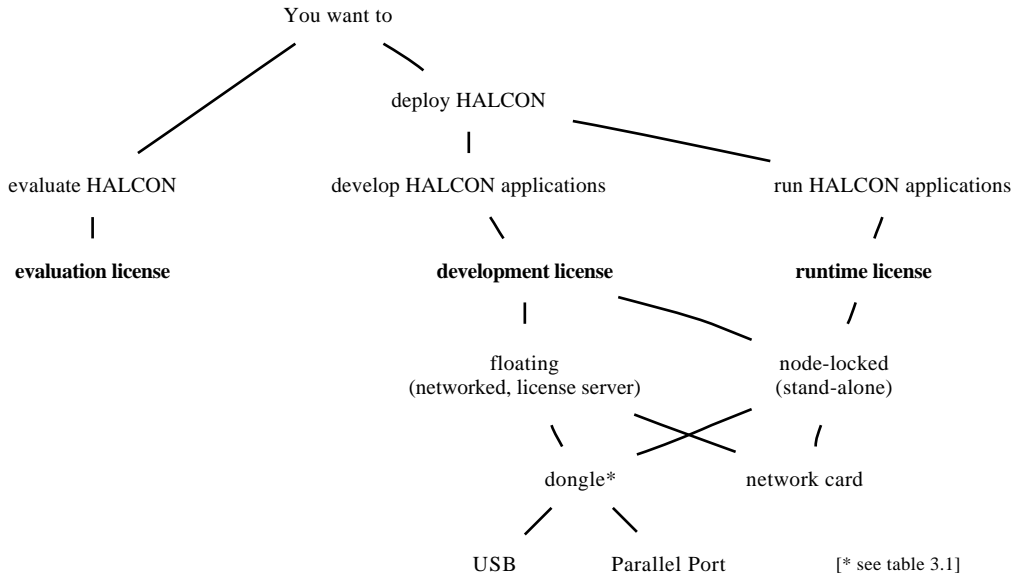


Figure 3.1: Individual node-locked licenses.

Node-Locked Versus Floating Development Licenses

You can choose between two types of development licenses. They differ in the number of computers that can run HALCON applications simultaneously and in their method of license validation.

Firstly, there are *node-locked licenses*. Such a license allows to run exactly one installation of HALCON at a time. The license validation is done on the local computer. To have additional people use HALCON on different computers at the same time, additional node-locked licenses have to be purchased (see [figure 3.1](#)). However, node-locked licenses can travel between computers by moving the hardware they are bound to (see below).

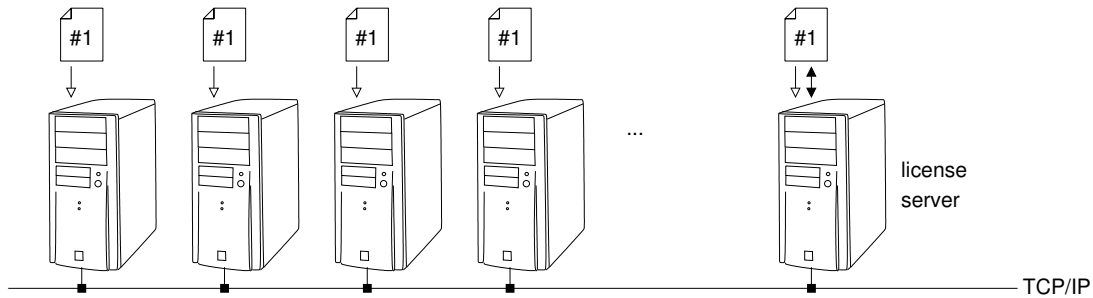



Figure 3.2: Floating license: License server approves remote HALCON instances.

Then, there are *floating licenses* which require participating computers to be networked. When ordering a floating license, you have to specify the number of concurrently running HALCON instances (see page 35) and decide on a computer in your network to act as a designated *license server*. There is no need to specify the participating computers. When the ordered license file arrives it is copied to the license server and each HALCON installation. The license validation is performed on the license server, which monitors concurrently running instances of HALCON in the network (see figure 3.2).

In contrast to development licenses, runtime licenses are always node-locked.

Network Card Versus Dongle Binding

As noted in section 1.4 on page 10, development and runtime licenses are bound to a certain hardware component. This is either the *network card* (see section 3.3.1 on page 33) or, on Windows and Linux systems, a *dongle* (see section 3.3.2 on page 34 and table 3.1).

Dongle-bound node-locked licenses allow to use HALCON on different computers by moving the dongle. Of course, network cards can also be switched between computers, but in practice they can be regarded as fixed. Thus, if you want to develop applications with HALCON on more than one stand-alone computer at different times, the easiest solution is to obtain a dongle-bound node-locked license on Windows and Linux systems. Please note that **USB dongles are not supported via Windows Terminal Server or Remote Desktop** on Windows systems. 

If you are developing applications based on HALCON in a team on different computers in a network, you can use a floating license. This license is bound to the network card or dongle which is attached to the license server. The license server may be changed by moving the dongle and altering the server entry in the license file. Floating licenses also are an option if a single person wants to use HALCON on different computers within a network at different times. For more details about floating licenses see section 3.3.3 on page 35.

Hardware Binding of the License on the Supported Platforms

Consult table 3.1 to find out which hardware is supported for binding your license to on your operating system.

Operating system	License can be bound to		
	network card	parallel port dongle	USB port dongle
Windows	yes	yes	yes**
Windows x64	yes	no*	yes**
Linux x86	yes	no	yes
Linux x86_64	yes	no	no*
Solaris	yes	no	no

* unless running the corresponding 32bit version of HALCON on this platform.

** not supported via Windows Terminal Server or Remote Desktop

Table 3.1: License binding options on the supported platforms.

Identifying the Hardware

The license manager software FLEXlm identifies a network card by a so-called *host ID* and a dongle by a so-called *dongle ID*. A valid host ID is the unique, immutable, machine-readable identification of an actual piece of ethernet hardware as devised by the hardware vendor. You can execute the following commands from a Windows Command Prompt or a UNIX shell to get the host ID and the dongle ID, respectively. See [section 4.3.1](#) on page 47 for a detailed description on solving problems extracting the host ID. The utility `lmhostid` is located in `%HALCONROOT%\FLEXlm\%HALCONARCH%` (see [table 1.2](#) on page 12 for the possible values of HALCONARCH).

```
lmhostid -ether
lmhostid -flexid
```

HDevelop, both in the full and in the demo version, automatically checks whether any network cards or dongles are present and displays their IDs in the menu item `Help > About`. For an example see [figure 3.3](#), which was generated on a computer equipped with a network card and a dongle.

3.2 Evaluation Licenses

As already noted in [section 1.4](#) on page 10, with an evaluation license you can evaluate the full functionality of HALCON free of charge on any computer. The only restrictions are that evaluation licenses are valid only for a limited time (typically a month), and no commercial applications may be developed.

Step 1: Obtain the license

You can obtain an evaluation license from your local distributor. The distributor will send you a *license file* that looks similar to the one depicted in [figure 3.4](#): The lines starting with # are comments; the date 02/2009 indicates that the evaluation license is valid until the end of February 2009.

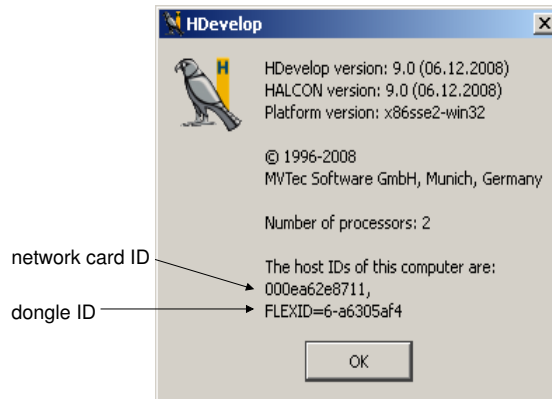


Figure 3.3: Identifying information in the HDevelop window About.

```
#####
# Evaluation License for 02/2009 (ID: DEMO) #
#####
FEATURE MVTec_HALCON mvtecd 9.0 01-mar-2009 uncounted VENDOR_STRING=511 \
  HOSTID=DEMO SIGN="133D C45D 66E3 BF26 3AFD 1860 FB2E 7C50 A0EE F2EE \
  A324 E9EF FF57 9DD0 4EA7 094A 1D3D 19C2 1678 F817 327E 1DC2 004C \
  8825 2D5E C7A8 A397 5F91 7A5E 98E2"
FEATURE MVTec_HDevelop mvtecd 9.0 01-mar-2009 uncounted VENDOR_STRING=511 \
  HOSTID=DEMO SIGN="0AF4 67D3 3674 9B07 9E53 1894 681E E3A0 5275 A60A \
  78B2 2304 A6AC BB4A 87C1 090F B47E 70D2 3231 C571 BA53 FB84 D9A0 \
  4AE6 3A7A 20C5 9F24 A737 8A3D A27C"
```

Figure 3.4: Example evaluation license for February 2009.

The lines starting with `FEATURE` contain the actual license data; they are called *license keys*. Evaluation licenses contain two license keys: `MVTec_HALCON` includes those HALCON parts that are necessary for running HALCON, while `MVTec_HDevelop` includes additional parts for developing, e.g., HDevelop.

As you can see, the license keys contain the licensed version number of HALCON (figure 3.4: 9.0). As noted in section 1.4 on page 10, the license is upward compatible within the version number, i.e., licenses for HALCON 9.0 are also valid for all maintenance releases of HALCON 9.0, e.g., HALCON 9.0.1.

The entry following the HALCON version specifies when the evaluation license key expires (figure 3.4: 01-March-2009).

Step 2: Install the license

“Installing” the license simply means placing the license file into the subdirectory `license` of the folder where you installed HALCON. If necessary, rename the file to `license.dat` (or `license90.dat` or similar, see section 1.4 on page 10).

Note that you can evaluate HALCON on any computer where you installed HALCON just by copying

the evaluation license file into the corresponding subdirectory `license`. You can also evaluate HALCON under different operating systems.

3.3 Development Licenses

Like the evaluation license, a development license allows you to use the full functionality of HALCON including the development tools like HDevelop (see also [section 1.4](#) on page 10). But in contrast to the evaluation license, a development license is permanent, i.e., there is no temporal restriction. However, it must be bound to a certain hardware component (see also [section 3.1](#) on page 27). The following sections describe how to proceed to obtain and install a

- node-locked license bound to a network card ([section 3.3.1](#))
- node-locked license bound to a dongle ([section 3.3.2](#) on page 34)
- floating license bound to a network card or dongle ([section 3.3.3](#) on page 35)

3.3.1 Node-locked License Bound to a Network Card

Step 1: Extract the host ID

Start HDevelop (full or demo version) and select the menu item Help ▸ About. This dialog displays the host ID of the network card, e.g., the string "000ea62e7fa4" in [figure 3.3](#) on page 31.

If HDevelop fails to detect a host ID although your computer does have a network card, please try to extract the host ID manually as described in [section 4.3.1](#) on page 47. This section also describes what to do if IDs like "ffffffff" or "0", or multiple IDs are displayed.

Step 2: Obtain the license

Send the host ID of the network card to your local distributor. The distributor then sends you a *license file* that looks similar to the one depicted in [figure 3.5](#).

```
#####
# MVTec Software GmbH (ID: 00e02958e3b6) #
# Development License #
#####
FEATURE MVTec_HALCON mvtecd 9.0 01-jan-0000 uncounted VENDOR_STRING=511 \
  HOSTID= 00e02958e3b6 TS_OK SIGN="1672 CF90 D9E1 BDCE 3B6F 1008 1062 \
  OFC1 0214 C5EB FG1B 9B3C 49C4 1CD3 DA0F 0F5D B870 36C4 D91A 2B21 \
  169F 26BC 5915 383E 71C7 153B 5440 5H4A 5458 5E1D"
FEATURE MVTec_HDevelop mvtecd 9.0 01-jan-0000 uncounted VENDOR_STRING=511 \
  HOSTID= 00e02958e3b6 TS_OK SIGN="19C8 0F4A 8D52 4CF4 AOCB D4A9 D443 \
  8B22 4DC8 6734 3190 A4D9 047A 7261 B123 06A1 D0A2 3012 6D8F 9E49 \
  1438 ECD9 3AF8 9978 7924 4E92 4D94 C248 0262 3FA1"
```

Figure 3.5: Example node-locked development license, bound to network card.

Like the evaluation license depicted in [figure 3.4](#) on page 31, it contains two *license keys* (lines starting with FEATURE), one for the runtime parts of HALCON (MVTec_HALCON) and one for the development parts (MVTec_HDevelop). The differences to the evaluation license show up as follows:

- The expiration date is set to 01-jan-0000, which means that the license is permanent (alternatively, the entry may contain the string permanent).
- Both license keys are bound to the HOSTID you extracted in the first step (in the example: 00e02958e3b6).

If the FEATURE line contains the additional keyword TS_OK, then this license allows also the checkout from a *terminal server* (Windows only).

Step 3: Install the license

Place the license file into the subdirectory `license` of the folder where you installed HALCON. If necessary, rename the file to `license.dat` (or `license90.dat` or similar, see [section 1.4](#) on page 10).

3.3.2 Node-locked License Bound to a Dongle

Dongles are available for selected platforms (see [table 3.1](#) on page 30). Note that for Windows systems we assume that you let the setup program install the driver programs necessary for using dongles as described in [section 2.2.1](#) on page 14. If you did not install the drivers, please refer to [section 4.3.2](#) on page 48. On Linux systems, the dongle driver has to be installed manually, which is described in [section 4.3.2.3](#) on page 49.

Step 1: Obtain dongle and license



Please note that **you cannot use any dongle but only those supplied by MVTec via your local distributor**. Currently, HALCON supports dongles connected to the parallel port and USB dongles.

The distributor will send you the dongle together with a corresponding *license file*, which looks similar to the one depicted in [figure 3.6](#). The only difference to the network card license depicted in [figure 3.5](#) on page 33 is that the entry HOSTID now contains the ID of the dongle (in the example: FLEXID=6-a6305af4). This ID is also printed on the back of the dongle. Dongles for the parallel port have IDs starting with 'FLEXID=6-' or 'FLEXID=7-', while USB dongles have IDs starting with 'FLEXID=9-'.

If the FEATURE line contains the additional keyword TS_OK, then this license allows also the checkout from a *terminal server*.

```
#####
# MVTec Software GmbH (ID: FLEXID=6-a6305af4) #
# Development License #
#####
FEATURE MVTec_HALCON mvtecd 9.0 01-jan-0000 uncoun ted VENDOR_STRING=511 \
  HOSTID=FLEXID=6-a6305af4 TS_OK SIGN="016D 9000 4BE3 30D0 F631 13D5 \
  D694 ED77 D4D8 2A35 AA31 6672 1651 EC07 C392 031E 197A CF39 005A \
  4811 6DE3 3BA5 0549 CA11 FE97 68C3 15F9 62E4 DA06 3E96"
FEATURE MVTec_HDevelop mvtecd 9.0 01-jan-0000 uncoun ted VENDOR_STRING=511 \
  HOSTID=FLEXID=6-a6305af4 TS_OK SIGN="07F0 5BED 3C77 2773 63B0 79B6 \
  B1B7 4D56 C16E 749E D959 37DB DD11 EBA9 906B 0C6E 0E99 C20E 91E7 \
  9037 A47A 37A8 B010 84BE D518 480B 5318 EE81 DCE4 5A6D"
```

Figure 3.6: Example development license, bound to dongle.

Step 2: Install the license

Place the license file into the subdirectory `license` of the folder where you installed HALCON. If necessary, rename the file to `license.dat` (or `license90.dat` or similar, see [section 1.4](#) on page 10).

If you want to use HALCON on more than one computer by switching the dongle between them, repeat this step for every computer.

3.3.3 Floating License Bound to a Network Card or Dongle

Section 3.1 on page 27 already briefly described the basic concept of floating licenses; now, we take a closer look:

- With a floating license, you can use HALCON on multiple computers in a network without having to identify each of these computers.
- When ordering a floating license via your local distributor you have to specify *how many* HALCON instances are allowed to run simultaneously.

To determine this number, add the number of users per computer:

- single user runs *many* HALCON applications on the *same* computer: 1 instance,
- single user runs HALCON applications on two computers: 2 instances,
- two users run HALCON applications on the *same* computer: 2 instances,
- two users on computer A, three users on computer B: 5 instances, and so forth...
- Only one computer must be identified: the *license server*. On this computer, the *license manager daemon* is installed, a program that keeps track of the HALCON applications currently being run (see section 4.3.3 on page 50 for details).

As already described for non-floating licenses, the computer which acts as the license server can be identified via network card or dongle.

- Note that **only development licenses are available as floating licenses**.



Floating licenses are well-suited especially in the following scenarios:

- A single person wants to develop HALCON applications on different computers within a network, and does not want to use a dongle-bound license.
- A group of persons wants to develop HALCON applications simultaneously in a computer network.

Step 1: Choose the computer acting as the license server

In principle, any computer can be chosen as the license server; it need not be a “server” in the sense that it must provide special functionality or have a special kind of operating system, e.g., Windows 2000 Server, installed. The only requirement is that the computer must be accessible whenever HALCON is to be used in the network.

You can even use different architectures for the license server and for the HALCON applications, respectively, e.g., a Linux workstation for the license server and Windows for developing HALCON applications. The license server can also be used for developing HALCON applications; but even if not, HALCON must be installed on it.

Step 2: Extract the host ID of the license server

Like all development licenses, floating licenses must be bound to a hardware component. Here, it is the computer acting as the license server that must be identified, be it via a network card or a dongle. Please refer to section 3.3.1 on page 33 (network card). If you choose a dongle-bound license, no further action is required as you get the dongle together with the license (see section 3.3.2 on page 34).

Step 3: Obtain the license

Send the desired number of licenses (i.e., the maximum number of HALCON applications that should run simultaneously per user on different computers), the hostname of the computer which acts as the license server, and – except in case of a dongle-bound license – the extracted host ID of the license server to your local distributor.

The distributor then sends you a license file, which looks similar to the one depicted in [figure 3.7](#). If you requested a dongle-bound license, you will also receive the dongle.

Step 4: Adapt the license

In contrast to the license types described in the previous sections, you may need to adapt parts of the floating license file. Therefore, we take a closer look at the example floating license depicted in [figure 3.7](#). It is bound to the same network card as the example node-locked license depicted in [figure 3.5](#) on page [33](#).

```
#####
# MVTec Software GmbH (ID: 00e02958e3b6)      #
# Development License                          #
#####
SERVER myservername 00e02958e3b6 27000
DAEMON mvtecd C:\Progra~1\MVTec\HALCON\FLEX1m\x86sse2-win32\mvtecd
FEATURE MVTec_HALCON mvtecd 9.0 01-jan-0000 7 VENDOR_STRING=511 \
  DUP_GROUP=UH SIGN="1649 6254 749D 6F3A 986E 93F9 754F EAFE 0B78 \
  B20A 9319 AFEF A7FC 9CAC B75C 049D 2ED5 F54F 3778 A8E5 6C61 4F01 \
  9C2A 84AB 1B2D 4D36 66A1 215C 6935 64E9"
FEATURE MVTec_HDevelop mvtecd 9.0 01-jan-0000 7 VENDOR_STRING=511 \
  DUP_GROUP=UH SIGN="16BD B3AD B31A 7CB4 0195 73D9 0463 0416 43B9 \
  9E42 7CCC DB72 CEB9 A6B6 2283 0D24 0A80 97FC 3775 6022 008A 01CB \
  65F1 21C9 9698 7A8C 2277 7DD3 EEA4 9140"
```

Figure 3.7: Floating license with 7 licenses, bound to network card.

The license consists of the following parts:

- **Description of the license server**

The line starting with `SERVER` describes the computer acting as the *license server* by stating its hostname (in the example: `myservername`), its host ID (`00e02958e3b6`), and the number of the TCP/IP port (`27000`), over which the HALCON applications connect to the *license manager daemon* running on the license server.



Please note that the **hostname must be specified correctly**. The reason is that the HALCON applications need the name to connect to the license server (even if they are started on the license server itself).

This means that if you did not send the name of the computer acting as the license server to your distributor when requesting the license, you must adapt this entry. The same holds if you decide to switch the dongle to another computer.

You may also need to adapt the port number, e.g., if the default port number 27000 is already used by another software in your computer network. Note, that on many systems all ports < 1024 are privileged and can only be used by privileged accounts!

- **Path to the license manager daemon**

The line starting with DAEMON contains the path of the daemon `mvtecd` (see also [section 4.3.3](#) on page 50). This program resides in the subdirectory `FLEX1m\%HALCONARCH%` of the folder where you installed HALCON on the license server (see [table 1.2](#) on page 12 for possible values of the environment variable `HALCONARCH`). In most cases, you must adapt this path. Unfortunately, you cannot use environment variables in the license file.

Note that paths including blanks may not be handled properly under Windows: Thus, if you have installed HALCON to a directory like `C:\Program Files\MVTec\HALCON` you will have to use the short path `C:\Progra~1\MVTec\HALCON` instead. You can query short path names as follows: Open a Windows Command Prompt, change into the directory that contains the directory or file whose short name is searched for (here: `C:`), and then type

```
dir /x
```

Note that the daemon `mvtecd` opens a second port. By default, this port is selected by the operating system, and thus its number can change. Especially when using a firewall, you might need to specify the port number explicitly. For this, append the string `port=number` to the line starting with DAEMON, for example as follows (if necessary, replace `x86sse2-win32` by the value of the environment variable `HALCONARCH`):

```
DAEMON mvtecd C:\Progra~1\MVTec\HALCON\FLEX1m\x86sse2-win32\mvtecd port=28000
```

- **The license keys**

Like the node-locked network card license depicted in [figure 3.5](#) on page 33, the floating license contains two *license keys* (lines starting with FEATURE), one for the runtime parts of HALCON (`MVTec_HALCON`) and one for the development parts (`MVTec_HDevelop`). In contrast to the node-locked version, the floating license keys do not contain the entry `HOSTID`, of course, because with a floating license HALCON applications can be started on any computer in the network. Instead, the keys specify how many applications can run simultaneously in the entry after the expiration date (in the example: 7). **This part of the license file must not be modified.**



Step 5: Install the license

As in the previous sections, installing the license file means to rename the file to `license.dat`, if necessary, and then to place it into the subdirectory `license` of the folder where you installed HALCON. Unlike the possibility described in [section 1.4](#) on page 10, where you can choose a similar name as well (e.g., `license90.dat`), for floating licenses only `license.dat` is valid (but you can apply changes manually via `install.s.exe`, see [section 4.3.3.1](#) on page 51). Note that you must place a copy of the license file on all computers you installed HALCON on, i.e., on the license server and on all those computers you want to use HALCON on.

Step 6: (Re-)start the license manager daemon

Finally, you must start the license manager daemon, or restart it if it is already running. Please refer to [section 4.3.3](#) on page 50 for further information.

Note that whenever you get a new floating license you must copy it to all computers and then *restart* the license manager daemon. The same is true if you modify parts of the license file while the license manager daemon is running. If you use different HALCON versions at the same time, you have to start the different license manager daemons on different servers.

3.4 Runtime Licenses

In contrast to a development license, a runtime license only allows to run HALCON applications. Like a development license, a runtime license is permanent, but must be *node-locked* (see also [section 3.1](#) on page 27).

Step 1: Extract the required modules

To extract the modules that are used by an application proceed as follows:

1. If the application is running in HDevelop, select the menu item `File > Properties`, which will open a dialog. In its tab `Used Modules` the used modules are listed (see the HDevelop User's Guide, [section 5.2.1.13](#) on page 54, for more information). [Figure 3.8](#) shows the result for an OCR application.

If you click `Copy to Clipboard`, the required modules are saved in the clipboard, from where you can insert them in other applications.

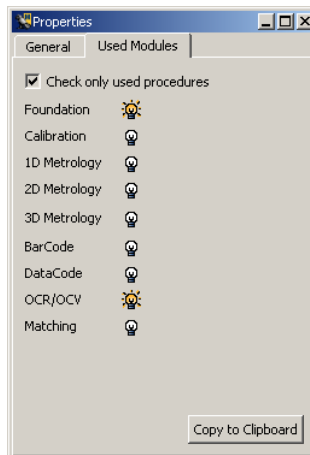


Figure 3.8: Used modules for an OCR application.

2. If the application is written in a programming language (C, C++, C#, Visual Basic, etc.), insert the operator `get_modules` (see the corresponding entry in the HALCON Reference Manuals for

! more information) at the end of the program. Note that **the operator `get_modules` will only return the correct modules if all HALCON operators used in the application are executed at least once.**

Step 2: Extract the host ID

Please refer to [section 3.3.1](#) on page 33 (network card) for information about how to extract the host ID. If you choose a dongle-bound license, no further action is required as you get the dongle together with the license (see [section 3.3.2](#) on page 34).

Step 3: Obtain the license

Send the determined module names and – except in case of a dongle-bound license – the extracted host ID to your local distributor.

The distributor then sends you a license file, which looks similar to the one depicted in [figure 3.9](#). If you requested a dongle-bound license, you will also receive the dongle.

```
#####
# MVTec Software GmbH (ID: 00e02958e3b6) #
# Runtime Module: Foundation           #
#####
FEATURE MVTec_HALCON mvtecd 9.0 01-jan-0000 uncounted VENDOR_STRING=1 \
  HOSTID=00e02958e3b6 TS_OK SIGN="06B1 EEED EB14 D4A6 5557 C450 4217 \
  885A 6B02 AD22 6F1C 74DF C152 97E7 26A0 1F43 C4E2 BD29 FF44 7790 \
  2D5F 5AD1 B33C 3EFO 8DF5 DBCF 75CF D7AB 428F ACC5"
```

Figure 3.9: Runtime license for the module 'Foundation', bound to network card.

If you compare the depicted license with the corresponding development license in [figure 3.5](#) on page 33, you will note two differences: First, the runtime license contains only one *license key* for the runtime parts of HALCON (FEATURE MVTec_HALCON). Secondly, the entry VENDOR_STRING contains a different number (1 instead of 511). In this entry the licensed modules are stored; in the example, only 'Foundation' is licensed.

Step 4: Install the license

Place the license file into the subdirectory `license` of the folder where you installed HALCON. If necessary, rename the file to `license.dat` (or `license90.dat` or similar, see [section 1.4](#) on page 10). In case of a dongle-bound please make sure that the dongle driver is installed (see [section 4.3.2](#) on page 48).

3.5 How to Upgrade a License

Node-locked Licenses

If you upgrade a HALCON node-locked license to a newer version, e.g., from HALCON 8.0.x to HALCON 9.0, your distributor provides you with a new license file which contains new license keys. This new license file should replace the old one in `%HALCONROOT%\license\license.dat`. Note that the comments at the beginning of the license file reflect the history of the license, see [figure 3.10](#) for an example upgrade from HALCON 8.0 to HALCON 9.0.

```
#####
# MVTec Software GmbH #
# License history: #
# 02-oct-2007: new license, HALCON 8.0, ID: 00e02958e3b6 #
# 08-mar-2009: free upgrade, HALCON 9.0, ID: 00e02958e3b6 #
#####
FEATURE MVTec_HALCON mvtecd 9.0 01-jan-0000 uncounted VENDOR_STRING=511 \
  HOSTID= 00e02958e3b6 SIGN="1649 6254 749D 6F3A 986E 93F9 754F EAFE 0B78 \
  B20A 9319 AFEF A7FC 9CAC B75C 049D 2ED5 F54F 3778 A8E5 6C61 4F01 \
  9C2A 84AB 1B2D 4D36 66A1 215C 6935 64E9"
FEATURE MVTec_HDevelop mvtecd 9.0 01-jan-0000 uncounted VENDOR_STRING=511 \
  HOSTID= 00e02958e3b6 SIGN="16BD B3AD B31A 7CB4 0195 73D9 0463 0416 43B9 \
  9E42 7CCC DB72 CEB9 A6B6 2283 0D24 0A80 97FC 3775 6022 008A 01CB \
  65F1 21C9 9698 7A8C 2277 7DD3 EEA4 9140"
```

Figure 3.10: Upgrading a node-locked license from HALCON 8.0 to HALCON 9.0.

Floating Licenses

If you are upgrading a floating license from HALCON 8.0 or later to a newer version, e.g., HALCON 9.0, your distributor provides you with a so-called *upgrade license file*, which contains upgrade license keys (lines start with `UPGRADE`). The contents of this file have to be appended to the end of the old license file.

If you are upgrading HALCON versions older than 8.0 to a newer version, e.g., HALCON 9.0, no specific upgrade license for a floating license is available anymore. Therefore, if you want to use an older version of a floating license simultaneous to the new one, you have to start the corresponding license manager daemons on separate servers.

Chapter 4

Troubleshooting

This chapter offers help for problems encountered during installing or uninstalling HALCON on Windows systems (section 4.1 and section 4.2, respectively), with the licensing mechanism (section 4.3 on page 47), or when starting HDevelop or your own HALCON applications (section 4.4 on page 55) and other miscellaneous problems.

Note that throughout the chapter the environment variable HALCONARCH is referenced. See table 1.2 on page 12 for the possible values of this variable.

4.1 Problems During Installation (Windows)

- **Registration of halconx.dll or hdevenginex.dll failed**

On some systems you might get a warning message that the HALCON/COM interface library halconx.dll or hdevenginex.dll failed to self-register. A possible cause for this may be that the Microsoft library at1.dll was not registered properly. This library resides in the directory %SystemRoot%\system32, e.g., C:\WINNT\system32. To register the library, open a Windows Command Prompt, change into the directory misc\%HALCONARCH% on the DVD and execute the supplied program reg_halconx twice as follows:

```
reg_halconx at1.dll
reg_halconx
```

The first call of reg_halconx registers at1.dll, the second one registers halconx.dll.

As an alternative to the Command Prompt, you can use the dialog Start ▸ Run; here, you can select the program via the button Browse or drag and drop reg_halconx from the Windows Explorer, followed by the library name if necessary. Note that by default the Windows Explorer does not show DLL files, unless you explicitly tell it to do so.

- **Installer fails to detect SSE2**

In rare cases the installer fails to detect the SSE2 capabilities of the processor. Therefore, HALCON will be installed in the non-SSE2 version. You can force the installation of the SSE2 version by calling the installer with the command line option /CPU=x86sse2. For example:

```
E:\install-windows\setup.exe /CPU=x86sse2
```

See [section 2.7](#) on page 20 for information about installer switches.

4.2 Problems During Uninstallation (Windows)

- **Patch for uninstalling HALCON 7.1.2**

Unfortunately, the uninstallation of HALCON 7.1.2 under Windows contains a bug that prevents the uninstallation of all installed files: As soon as you try to start the actual uninstallation, the setup program will show the wrong version number “7.0.2” and exit without any further action.

To enable the correct uninstallation of HALCON 7.1.2, please download the following zip file containing the three correct installer files:

```
http://www.mvtec.com/download/release/zip/halcon-7.1.2-uninstall-patch.zip
```

Unzip the file and replace the three erroneous files in the directory

```
%ProgramFiles%\InstallShield Installation Information\  
{0B2DE0B7-FD31-11D9-A19F-00E01883F42C}
```

with the new ones from the zip file.

Note that all other versions of HALCON besides HALCON 7.1.2 are not affected. In particular, the bug will be fixed automatically as soon as you update from HALCON 7.1.2 to HALCON 7.1.3 or HALCON 7.1.4.

- **Unregistration of halconx.dll**

If you had to register the HALCON/COM interface library `halconx.dll` manually as described in [section 4.1](#) on page 41, you must unregister it manually before you can uninstall HALCON. To do so, insert a HALCON DVD, then open a Windows Command Prompt, change into the directory `misc\x86-win32` on the DVD, and execute the supplied program `reg_halconx` as follows:

```
reg_halconx /u
```

As an alternative to the Command Prompt, open the dialog Start ▷ Run, select the program `reg_halconx` via the button Browse, append the option `/u`, and then click OK.

- **“Internal Error” (does not occur when using HALCON 9.0)**

If the uninstall process terminates with a message like

“Internal Error, unable to load or call external DLL. Please contact your distributor for more information.”

the most likely reason is that a new HALCON version was installed over an existing one without completely removing the old files first.

Other possible reasons might be that the whole HALCON directory was moved to another position on the hard disk, or the environment variable `HALCONROOT` was changed manually. You have to follow the following steps to recover from the error:

1. Check whether the environment variable HALCONROOT matches the location of your HALCON installation. You can check this via the system control panel System (look for Environment) or in a Windows Command Prompt via `echo %HALCONROOT%`. If the variable contains nothing or the files are in some other location, you have to set HALCONROOT manually via the System control panel.
2. Check whether the following files / directories are present:
 - In the directory `%HALCONROOT%\FLEX1m\%HALCONARCH%`: `HalconUninst.dll`
Note that by default the Windows Explorer does not show DLL files, unless you explicitly tell it to do so.
`HalconUninst.dll` is a HALCON specific DLL for the uninstallation process. If this file has been removed, you can get a copy of the file from the directory `FLEX1m\%HALCONARCH%` on the HALCON DVD.
 - **Only for HALCON 8.0**
In the directory `C:\Program Files\InstallShield Installation Information:` the directory `{096CE3F7-2FD9-4460-A270-F9F4740DB91B}` with a set of files. This directory has been created during the installation. If it has been removed, an automatic uninstallation is not possible.
 - **Only for HALCON 7.1**
In the directory `C:\Program Files\InstallShield Installation Information:` the directory `{0B2DE0B7-FD31-11D9-A19F-00E01883F42C}` with a set of files. This directory has been created during the installation. If it has been removed, an automatic uninstallation is not possible.
 - **Only for HALCON 7.0**
In the directory `C:\Program Files\InstallShield Installation Information:` the directory `{47F424B4-1077-11D8-A0D3-00E01883F42C}` with a set of files. This directory has been created during the installation. If it has been removed, an automatic uninstallation is not possible.
 - **Only for HALCON 6.1**
In the directory `C:\Program Files\InstallShield Installation Information:` the directory `{BBEC9F40-4A36-11D6-A14C-00E0296C2846}` with a set of files. This directory has been created during the installation. If it has been removed, an automatic uninstallation is not possible.
 - **Only for HALCON releases < 6.1**
In your `%HALCONROOT%` directory: `Uninst.isu`
This file has been created during the installation. If it has been removed, an automatic uninstallation is not possible.
3. Check whether the registry entry for the uninstaller is set properly: Start `regedit.exe` in a Windows Command Prompt or in the dialog Start > Run.
 - **Only for HALCON 9.0**
Please look for `uninstall.exe` under `%HALCONROOT%\misc\x86-win32`.
 - **Only for HALCON 8.0**
Go to

```
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE -> SOFTWARE -> Microsoft -> Windows ->
  CurrentVersion -> Uninstall ->
  {096CE3F7-2FD9-4460-A270-F9F4740DB91B}
```

There, you should find a key named UninstallString. The value of this string should be something like this:

```
RunDll32 C:\PROGRA~1\COMMON~1\INSTAL~1\engine\6\INTEL3~1\Ctor.dll,
LaunchSetup "C:\Program Files\InstallShield Installation
Information\{096CE3F7-2FD9-4460-A270-F9F4740DB91B}\
setup.exe" -l0x9 UninstallHALCON
```

- **Only for HALCON 7.1**

Go to

```
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE -> SOFTWARE -> Microsoft -> Windows ->
  CurrentVersion -> Uninstall ->
  {0B2DE0B7-FD31-11D9-A19F-00E01883F42C}
```

There, you should find a key named UninstallString. The value of this string should be something like this:

```
RunDll32 C:\PROGRA~1\COMMON~1\INSTAL~1\engine\6\INTEL3~1\Ctor.dll,
LaunchSetup "C:\Program Files\InstallShield Installation
Information\{0B2DE0B7-FD31-11D9-A19F-00E01883F42C}\
setup.exe" -l0x9 UninstallHALCON
```

- **Only for HALCON 7.0**

Go to

```
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE -> SOFTWARE -> Microsoft -> Windows ->
  CurrentVersion -> Uninstall ->
  {47F424B4-1077-11D8-A0D3-00E01883F42C}
```

There, you should find a key named UninstallString. The value of this string should be something like this:

```
RunDll32 C:\PROGRA~1\COMMON~1\INSTAL~1\engine\6\INTEL3~1\Ctor.dll,
LaunchSetup "C:\Program Files\InstallShield Installation
Information\{47F424B4-1077-11D8-A0D3-00E01883F42C}\
setup.exe" -l0x9 UninstallHALCON
```

- **Only for HALCON 6.1**

Go to

```
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE -> SOFTWARE -> Microsoft -> Windows ->
  CurrentVersion -> Uninstall ->
  {BBEC9F40-4A36-11D6-A14C-00E0296C2846}
```

There, you should find a key named UninstallString. The value of this string

should be something like this:

```
RunDll32 C:\PROGRA~1\COMMON~1\INSTAL~1\engine\6\INTEL3~1\Ctor.dll,
LaunchSetup "C:\Program Files\InstallShield Installation
Information\{BBEC9F40-4A36-11D6-A14C-00E0296C2846}\
setup.exe" -l0x9 UninstallHALCON
```

- **Only for HALCON releases < 6.1**

Go to

```
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE -> SOFTWARE -> Microsoft -> Windows ->
CurrentVersion -> Uninstall -> HALCON <Version-Number>
```

with <Version-Number> being the version number of the HALCON version that you want to uninstall. There, you should find a key named `UninstallString`. The value of this string should be something like this (the option `-c...` is only included if you have chosen an installation with floating licenses):

```
C:\WINNT\IsUninst.exe
-f"C:\Program Files\MVTEC\HALCON\Uninst.isu"
-c"C:\Program Files\MVTEC\HALCON\FLEXlm\i586-nt4\
HalconUninst.dll"
```

Make sure that the path `C:\Program Files\MVTEC\HALCON` (or equivalent) in the above example points to the folder where you installed HALCON. Note that **file names that contain blanks must be quoted** as in the above example. If you encounter unquoted path names containing blanks, please insert the quotation marks yourself.



4. Close the registry editor and try to run the uninstaller again.

- **Uninstallation failed**

If the automatic uninstallation fails for another reason, proceed as follows:

- For floating licenses only: Uninstall the license manager daemon as described in [section 4.3.3.1](#) on page 51.
- Start `regedit` and delete the following key:

On 32-bit Windows:

```
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE -> SOFTWARE -> MVTEC -> HALCON -> x.x
```

On 64-bit Windows:

```
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE -> SOFTWARE -> Wow6432Node -> MVTEC -> HALCON -> x.x
```

- **For recent versions (HALCON 9.0 or higher)**

Also delete the following key:

On 32-bit Windows:

```
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE -> SOFTWARE -> Microsoft -> Windows ->
CurrentVersion -> Uninstall -> MVTEC HALCON x.x
```

On 64-bit Windows:

```
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE -> SOFTWARE -> Wow6432Node -> Microsoft -> Windows ->
CurrentVersion -> Uninstall -> MVTec HALCON x.x
```

- **Only for HALCON 8.0**

Also delete the key

```
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE -> SOFTWARE -> Microsoft -> Windows ->
CurrentVersion -> Uninstall ->
{096CE3F7-2FD9-4460-A270-F9F4740DB91B}
```

- **Only for HALCON 7.1**

Also delete the key

```
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE -> SOFTWARE -> Microsoft -> Windows ->
CurrentVersion -> Uninstall ->
{0B2DE0B7-FD31-11D9-A19F-00E01883F42C}
```

- **Only for HALCON 7.0**

Also delete the key

```
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE -> SOFTWARE -> Microsoft -> Windows ->
CurrentVersion -> Uninstall ->
{47F424B4-1077-11D8-A0D3-00E01883F42C}
```

- **Only for HALCON 6.1**

Also delete the key

```
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE -> SOFTWARE -> Microsoft -> Windows ->
CurrentVersion -> Uninstall ->
{BBEC9F40-4A36-11D6-A14C-00E0296C2846}
```

- **Only for HALCON releases < 6.1**

Also delete the key

```
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE -> SOFTWARE -> Microsoft -> Windows ->
CurrentVersion -> Uninstall -> HALCON
```

- Using, e.g., the Windows Explorer, delete the directory

```
%ALLUSERSPROFILE%\Start Menu\Programs\MVTec HALCON x.x
```

- Delete the environment variables HALCONROOT and HALCONIMAGES in Start ▸ Settings ▸ Control Panel ▸ System (Windows Vista and Windows 7: ... ▸ System ▸ Advanced System Settings).
- Finally, delete the contents of the HALCON directory and all its subdirectories.

4.3 Problems Concerning Licenses

If you encounter problems with your HALCON license even though your license file exists and is located in the correct directory, a first step is always to check if the information identifying your network card or dongle matches the entries in the license file (see the corresponding sections in [chapter 3](#) on page 27). If the two do not match, please send the new identifying information to your distributor. See [section 4.3.1](#) if you encounter problems with extracting the identifying information.

[Section 4.3.2](#) contains information all around dongle drivers, e.g., how to check whether they are installed correctly.

If you have problems with a floating license, the first step is to check whether the entries in the license file that can be customized contain the correct information, especially the port number for the license manager daemon (see [section 3.3.3](#) on page 35). If the license file is correct, please refer to [section 4.3.3](#) on page 50, which explains how to check whether the floating license manager daemon was installed successfully and how to install it manually.

The FLEXlm End User's Guide can be obtained from <http://www.flexera.com>.

4.3.1 Extracting Host IDs

- **The dialog Help > About HDevelop does not show any host IDs**

If HDevelop fails to detect any host IDs although your computer does have a network board, a Pentium III, or a dongle, please try to extract the host IDs manually using the program `lmhostid` shipped together with the license manager FLEXlm. Under Windows, open a Windows Command Prompt¹. Under Linux, open a shell, change into the directory `$HALCONROOT/FLEXlm/$HALCONARCH`.

- To identify a computer by its **network card**, type `lmhostid -ether` (or just `lmhostid`). The output might look like this on a Windows system:

```
> lmhostid -ether
lmhostid - Copyright (c) 1989-2009 Flexera Software, Inc. All Rights Reserved.
The FLEXnet host ID of this machine is "00270e0ac34a"
```

If `lmhostid` returns "ffffffff" or "0" please see below.

- To check the **dongle ID**, type `lmhostid -flexid`. The output now might look like this:

```
> lmhostid -flexid
lmhostid - Copyright (c) 1989-2009 Flexera Software, Inc. All Rights Reserved.
The FLEXnet host ID of this machine is "FLEXID=9-1135eb58"
```

The host ID must be identical to the one printed on the back of the dongle. If this is not the case, please see below.

- `lmhostid -ether` returns "ffffffff" or "0"

If `lmhostid` returns "ffffffff" or "0", this usually indicates that you do not have

¹Do not start the program from the Windows Explorer. You *must* use a Command Prompt.

a network card. If you do have one, on Windows versions higher than Windows NT check whether the client for Microsoft networks is installed in the dialog `Start ▸ Settings ▸ Network Connections ▸ Local Area Connections ▸ Properties`. If the client for Microsoft networks does not appear in the list install it by clicking `Install` and then selecting it from the list of clients.

Also make sure the Workstation service is started. See [section 4.3.3.1](#) on page 51 for how to check if a service is running.

On **Windows NT** systems check whether the NetBEUI and TCP/IP protocols are installed in the dialog `Start ▸ Settings ▸ Control Panel ▸ Network ▸ Protocol`. If the protocols do not appear in the dialog, please install these two protocols by adding them in the dialog.

Then, call `lmhostid` again or open HDevelop's dialog `Help ▸ About` (see [section 3.1](#) on page 27) to check whether a correct host ID is found now.

- **Multiple IDs for only one network card**

On Windows 2000 and higher systems, sometimes more than one ID is returned even if there is only a single network card. In this case, use the ID that remains when both the NetBEUI and IPX/SPX protocols are disabled. Alternatively, use the ID that does not change when you reboot your computer.

- **Licensing via network card does not work when network is not connected**

On Windows 2000 and higher systems, you must disable Media Sense (*DHCP*) when no network is connected to the network card. Usually, it is sufficient to disable the DHCP protocol in this case. Further details can be found under <http://support.microsoft.com/support/kb/articles/Q239/9/24.asp>.

- **`lmhostid -flexid` does not return the dongle ID**

If `lmhostid` does not return the ID that is printed on the back of the dongle, check whether the dongle driver is installed and configured correctly as described in [section 4.3.2](#).

If the driver is installed but `lmhostid` still does not return the correct ID, please check the corresponding port (parallel or USB) of your computer, before requesting a new dongle.

4.3.2 Dongle Drivers


4.3.2.1 Dongles for the Parallel Port (Windows only, except Windows x64 editions)

As described in [section 2.2.1](#) on page 14, you can let HALCON install the driver programs necessary for using dongles. You can check the success of this installation in the following system dialog, which should contain an entry called `sentinel`.

- **Windows NT** : `Start ▸ Settings ▸ Control Panel ▸ Devices`.
- **Windows 2000 and higher**: `Start ▸ Programs ▸ Accessories ▸ System Tools ▸ System Information ▸ Software Environment`, then select `Drivers` (or `System Drivers`).

You can install, configure, and uninstall the dongle driver manually using an auxiliary program that is part of each HALCON installation. Open a Windows Command Prompt or the dialog `Start ▸ Run` and start the program

```
%HALCONROOT%\FLEX1m\%HALCONARCH%\flexid6-7\SentinelProtectionInstaller-7.6.3.exe
```

and follow the instructions. Afterwards, reboot your computer. Then, the driver should appear in the dialog described above. **Please note that you need administrator privileges to install the driver!** If you try to install the driver without administrator privileges, the setup program might falsely state that the installation was successful. 

You might need to configure the driver if your computer has more than one parallel port.

Note that the HALCON uninstallation process does not uninstall the dongle driver as it might also be used by another application. However, the uninstallation removes the auxiliary program. Therefore, if you want to uninstall the driver, do so before uninstalling HALCON; of course, the program can still be found on the HALCON DVD in the directory FLEX1m\%HALCONARCH%\flexid6-7.


4.3.2.2 Dongles for the USB Port (Windows)

As described in [section 2.2.1](#) on page 14, you can let HALCON install the driver programs necessary for using dongles. You can check the success of this installation in the system dialog given in [section 4.3.2.1](#) on page 48, which should contain two entries called `hardlock` and `haspnt`.

Depending on your operating system, you can install, configure, and uninstall the dongle drivers manually using an auxiliary program that is part of each HALCON installation. Open a Windows Command Prompt or the dialog `Start > Run` and execute the program `%HALCONROOT%\FLEX1m\%HALCONARCH%\flexid9\haspdinst.exe` in one of the following ways:

<code>haspdinst</code>	opens a dialog explaining how to use <code>haspdinst</code>
<code>haspdinst -info</code>	shows the status of the drivers
<code>haspdinst -i</code>	installs the drivers
<code>haspdinst -remove</code>	removes the drivers

Please note that you need administrator privileges to install the drivers! 

Note that in order to **execute command line tools with administrator privileges under Windows Vista and higher**, you will need to open a command shell using “Run as Administrator” and execute the tool from there (even if you are already logged in as administrator). 

Note that the HALCON uninstallation process does not uninstall the driver as they might also be used by another application. However, the uninstallation removes the auxiliary program. Therefore, if you want to uninstall the drivers, do so before uninstalling HALCON; of course, the program can still be found on the HALCON DVD in the directory FLEX1m\%HALCONARCH%\flexid9.

See `%HALCONROOT%\FLEX1m\%HALCONARCH%\flexid9\readme.html` for further information.

4.3.2.3 Dongles for the USB Port (Linux)

In order to install the USB dongle daemon on Linux, issue the following commands as `root`:

```
# cd $HALCONROOT/FLEXlm/$HALCONARCH/flexid9
# ./dinst .
```

The installation script will install the dongle daemon and the corresponding start-up scripts.

```
-----
Copy AKSUSB daemon to /usr/sbin ...
Copy WINEHASP daemon to /usr/sbin ...
Copy HASPLMD daemon to /usr/sbin ...
Copy start-up script to /etc/init.d ...
Link HASP SRM runtime environment startup script to system startup folder
Starting HASP SRM runtime environment ...
Starting AKSUSB daemon:                [ OK ]
Starting WINEHASP daemon:              [ OK ]
Starting HASPLM daemon:                [ OK ]
Done
-----
```

To test, if the dongle daemon is running, enter the following command as root (where `/etc/init.d` is to be replaced by the directory reported when installing the dongle daemon):

```
# /etc/init.d/aksusbd status
AKSUSB daemon is running!
WINEHASP daemon is running!
HASPLM daemon is running!
```

To uninstall the dongle daemon, enter the following command as root:

```
# ./dunst
Stopping HASP SRM RTE ...
Stopping HASPLM daemon:                [ OK ]
Stopping WINEHASP daemon:              [ OK ]
Stopping AKSUSB daemon:                [ OK ]
Removing files ...
Done
```

See `$HALCONROOT/FLEXlm/$HALCONARCH/flexid9/readme.html` for further information.

4.3.3 The License Manager Daemon

The license manager daemon (which is used in case of floating licenses) consists of two programs:

1. `lmgrd`: This is the main license manager daemon, which is provided by the licensing software FLEXlm. It handles the connections from the HALCON applications and passes them on to the second daemon.
2. `mvtecd`: This is the so-called *vendor daemon*, which is charged with keeping track of the HALCON applications currently being run.

The following sections explain how to install, (re-)start, and uninstall the license manager daemon on Windows (section 4.3.3.1) and Linux/UNIX (section 4.3.3.2 on page 53) platforms. Note that if you use different HALCON versions simultaneously you have to start the corresponding license manager daemons on separate servers.

4.3.3.1 Windows

How to Check Whether the License Manager Daemon is Running

To check whether the daemon was installed and started successfully, open the Windows dialog showing the state of the installed services:

- Windows NT: Open the dialog Start ▷ Settings ▷ Control Panel ▷ Services.
- Windows 2000 and Windows XP: Open the dialog Start ▷ Settings ▷ Control Panel ▷ Administrative Tools ▷ Services.
- Windows Vista: Open the dialog Start ▷ Control Panel ▷ System and Maintenance ▷ Administrative Tools ▷ Services.
- Windows 7: Open the dialog Start ▷ Control Panel ▷ System and Security ▷ Administrative Tools ▷ Services.

If the daemon was installed successfully by the setup program, the dialog contains the entry HALCON Licenses.

How to Install the License Manager Daemon

If you did not install the license manager daemon via the setup as described in section 2.2.1 on page 14, or if its installation failed, you can install it manually at a later time as described below. Note that **you need administrator privileges** for this procedure.

Note that in order to **execute command line tools with administrator privileges under Windows Vista and higher**, you will need to open a command shell using “Run as Administrator” and execute the tool from there (even if you are already logged in as administrator).

Open a Windows Command Prompt, change into the directory `%HALCONROOT%\FLEXlm\%HALCONARCH%`, and type (*one* long command line):

```
installs -n "HALCON Licenses"  
-c "%HALCONROOT%\license\license.dat"  
-l "%HALCONROOT%\license\license.log"  
-e "%HALCONROOT%\FLEXlm\%HALCONARCH%\lmgrd.exe"
```

The environment variable HALCONROOT points to the folder where you installed HALCON (see also section A.2 on page 61). The quotes are necessary to handle paths that contain blanks. As mentioned in section 3.3.3 on page 35, here you can change the name of the license file manually (replace `license.dat`, e.g., by `license90.dat` or similar).

To check whether the installation succeeded, (re-)open the Windows dialog showing the state of the installed services (see above), which now should contain the entry HALCON Licenses (or, to be more



exact, an entry with the name you specified with the option `-n` or `FLEXlm license manager` if you leave out this option).

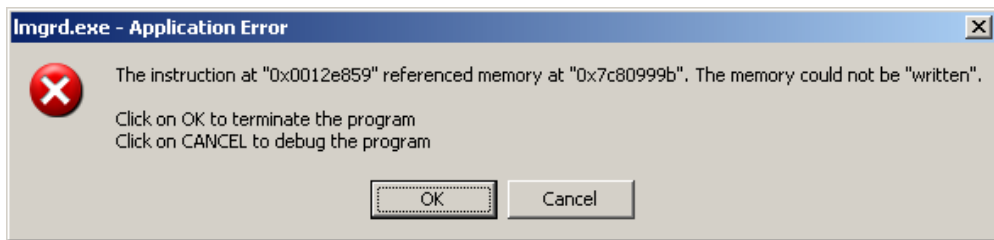
Note that if you installed the license manager daemon manually, you must also uninstall it manually before you uninstall HALCON. Otherwise it remains installed.

How to Start the License Manager Daemon

After the installation, the daemon is not started automatically. You can start it by rebooting the computer. If you have administrator privileges, you can start it directly in the dialog which shows the state of the installed services (see above) by selecting it and then clicking the start button or icon; if this fails, please check whether the entries in the license file are correct.

If the License Manager Daemon Fails to Start

Recent versions of the license manager daemon fail to start if no floating license is available. The following error dialog will be displayed while booting:



After login, the following message may be displayed in a notification window:

```
LMGRD encountered a problem and needed to close.
```

If you do have a floating license, make sure it is correctly installed on the license server as described in [section 3.3.3](#) on page 35. Otherwise, it is recommended to uninstall the license manager daemon as described below.

How to Restart the License Manager Daemon

Whenever you replace a floating license or modify it you must *restart* the license manager daemon. Another reason for restarting the license manager daemon is when you update to a HALCON release that uses a newer version of the FLEXlm license manager software. One possible method is to reboot the computer acting as the license server. If you have administrator privileges, you can also restart the daemon manually: Open the dialog showing the state of the installed services (see above), select the entry HALCON Licenses and then stop and start it again.

How to Uninstall the License Manager Daemon



Please note that for the following procedure **you need administrator privileges**.

Before you can uninstall the license manager daemon, you must first stop it: Open the Windows dialog showing the state of the installed services (see above), select the entry `HALCON Licenses` and then click the stop button or icon. Note that under Windows 2000, Windows XP, Windows Vista and Windows 7 an error message may appear, which can safely be ignored.

Now, open a Windows Command Prompt, change into the directory `%HALCONROOT%\FLEXlm\%HALCONARCH%`, and type:

```
installs -r -n "HALCON Licenses"
```

To check whether the uninstallation succeeded, re-open the services dialog, which should not contain an entry `HALCON Licenses` anymore.

How to Avoid License Errors with Floating Dongle Licenses

A race condition might occur if a HALCON application starts up immediately after booting the license server: The license manager might be running before the dongle driver is loaded, resulting in a license error. To avoid this problem, it is sufficient to define dependencies for the services started on the license server at boot time.

To do this, you need to edit the registry. Run `regedt32`, and navigate to the following path:

```
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services\HALCON Licenses
```

Add the value `DependOnService` (of type `REG_MULTI_SZ`) if it does not exist already. Double-click the value and enter the following dependencies (one entry per line):

```
akshasp
aksusb
Hardlock
Haspnt
```

4.3.3.2 Linux/UNIX

How to Install the License Manager Daemon

On Linux/UNIX systems, the license manager daemons `lmgrd` and `mvtecd` are automatically “installed” in the subdirectory `FLEXlm/$HALCONARCH` of the directory you installed HALCON in.

How to Start the License Manager Daemon

The license manager daemon `lmgrd` must be started from the appropriate startup file (called, e.g., `/etc/init.d/boot.local`, `/sbin/init.d/boot.local`, `/etc/rc.boot`, `/etc/rc.local`, or

/etc/localrc, please consult your system's documentation). Add the following (long) line to this file, replacing the environment variables with their content (see [section A.2](#) on page 61):

```
$HALCONROOT/FLEXlm/$HALCONARCH/lmgrd -c $HALCONROOT/license/license.dat  
> $HALCONROOT/license/license.log 2>&1 &
```



If you copied `lmgrd` to another location, you must of course adapt the path to it accordingly. Please note, that you **should not start `lmgrd` with root privileges!**

`lmgrd` automatically starts the vendor daemon `mvtecd`.

How to Restart the License Manager Daemon

Whenever you replace a floating license or modify it you must restart the license manager daemon. Another reason for restarting the license manager daemon is when you update to a HALCON release that uses a newer version of the FLEXlm license manager software.

One possible method is to reboot the computer acting as the license server. If you have administrator privileges, you can also restart the daemon manually by stopping the process `lmgrd` and then restarting it with the line used in the startup file (see above).

How to Uninstall the License Manager Daemon

To uninstall the license manager daemon you must remove the corresponding entry in the startup file (see above) and stop the currently running `lmgrd` and `mvtecd` processes. This can be achieved by rebooting the computer that acts as the license server or by use of the `kill` command (please see your system's documentation or ask your system administrator for advice).

4.4 Troubleshooting in HDevelop or HALCON Applications

This section explains miscellaneous error messages when starting HDevelop or your own HALCON applications and their reasons.

- **Error using license file**

This error message might have several reasons:

- The file `%HALCONROOT%\license\license.dat` is missing and/or not readable.
- Your license is not valid on this machine.
- In case of floating licenses: There are too many applications using HALCON active, i.e., the maximum number of simultaneous HALCON applications (which is specified in the floating license) has been exceeded.

- **Lost connection to license server**

Verify that the license server is running. You may also check whether your machine is properly connected with the server. For this you may need to contact your system administrator.

- **No license for this operator**

The operator which you try to execute belongs to a HALCON module that is not licensed (see [section 3.4](#) on page 38). Obtain a new license including this module.

- **hdevelop: Command not found** (Linux/UNIX)

Check your system environment variable `PATH`. It must include the path `$HALCONROOT/bin/$HALCONARCH`.

- **lib* : can't open file** (Linux/UNIX)

Check the system variable `LD_LIBRARY_PATH` (see [section A.2](#) on page 61).

- **No help files for package <package-name> in directory <directory>**

Possible reasons for this error message are:

- No files `%HALCONROOT%\help*` (if the package name is “system”) or no help files in one of the user packages.
- If the package name is “system”: Wrong `HALCONROOT`.
- Check the file permissions. Probably HDevelop cannot access important files.

- **Help file for package <package-name> is corrupt**

Possible reasons for this error message are:

- If the package name is “system”: Inconsistent version of `%HALCONROOT%\help*` or wrong `HALCONROOT`.
- If the package name is that of a user package: Inconsistent version of the help files of this package.

- **Can't open display** (Linux/UNIX)

If you see an error message like this you may have a wrong system variable `DISPLAY` and/or your program is not allowed to open a window by the specified X-server.

- **No refresh of window content on a Linux/UNIX system**

On some Linux/UNIX systems the default behavior regarding occluded windows may be set in an inconvenient way for HALCON. The result is that if a window is temporarily occluded by another window, its content is not saved and restored anymore, i.e., windows remain “black” after uncovering. An example for this are all SuSE Linux distributions ≥ 7.0 . The corresponding property is called “backing-store”; you can check the current setting of this property by typing (the following example corresponds to a SuSE 8.2 Linux system):

```
xdpyinfo | grep backing-store
```

which should result in the output like

```
options:    backing-store YES, save-unders YES
```

if the window content is saved and restored. You can change this behavior by modifying the file `Xservers` residing in the directory `/usr/lib/X11/xdm` (or `/opt/kde3/share/config/kdm` in case of newer Linux versions), see your system’s documentation. Note, that you probably need root privileges to modify this file. Append the option `+bs` (i.e., “plus backing-store”) to the line that starts the local X server:

```
:0 local /usr/X11R6/bin/X :0 vt07 +bs
```

Alternatively, you can change the configuration file of your X server. It usually resides in `/etc/X11/xorg.conf` if you are using Xorg, or in `/etc/X11/XF86Config` if you are using XFree86. Consult your system’s documentation if in doubt.

You will probably need to become root to modify this file. Open the file in a text editor, find the section named “Device”, and add the following option to this section:

```
Section "Device"  
...  
Option      "BackingStore" "True"  
EndSection
```

Now, stop and start the X server again (by using the appropriate commands or by rebooting your computer); the command `xdpyinfo` now should yield the output shown above.

Appendix A

More on the Installation

This appendix contains information about

- the installed file structure ([section A.1](#)),
- the relevant environment variables ([section A.2](#) on page 61), and
- special information for users of ActivVisionTools ([section A.3](#) on page 63).

A.1 The Installed File Structure

Let's take a look at the installed file structure in the directory %HALCONROOT%. In the following, the most important directories and files are described briefly. Please note that, depending on your installation, not all directories may be present.

- **FLEXlm:** This directory contains programs used for licensing in subdirectories corresponding to the different platforms (see [chapter 3](#) on page 27 and [section 4.3.3](#) on page 50).
- **bin:** This directory contains HALCON programs, for example HDevelop (Windows: `hdevelop.exe`; Linux/UNIX: `hdevelop`), again in subdirectories corresponding to the different platforms. For Windows, this directory also contains the DLLs of the HALCON libraries and the DLLs for the supported image acquisition interfaces. The subdirectories `dotnet10` and `dotnet20` contain the HALCON/.NET assemblies based on .NET Framework 1.0 and .NET Framework 2.0, respectively.
- **calib:** This directory contains description files for the calibration plates, which you can use to calibrate your camera.
- **doc\html:** Here, you find the HTML documentation of the HALCON Image Acquisition Interfaces (subdirectory `manuals\acquisition`), some of the User's Manuals (subdirectory `manuals`), and the HTML version of the reference manuals (subdirectory `reference`) including the API reference of the HALCON Codelets.
- **doc\pdf:** Here, you find the PDF version of the user's manuals (subdirectory `manuals`), the [Solution Guide I](#), the Solution Guide II, and Solution Guide III (subdirectory `solution_guide`), and of the reference manuals (subdirectory `reference`).
- **examples:** The subdirectories of this directory contain example programs for the different parts of the HALCON system:
 - ▷ **c:** Examples for using HALCON within the programming language C (see also the Programmer's Guide, [chapter 18](#) on page 159).
 - ▷ **c#:** Examples for using HALCON within the programming language C# (see also the Programmer's Guide, [section 11.2](#) on page 108).
 - ▷ **codelets:** HALCON Codelets (see the Programmer's Guide, [section 11.1](#) on page 105, for more information).
 - ▷ **cpp:** Examples for using HALCON within the programming language C++ (see also the Programmer's Guide, [chapter 7](#) on page 71).
 - ▷ **cpp.net:** Examples for using HALCON within managed C++ (see also the Programmer's Guide, [section 11.2](#) on page 108).
 - ▷ **delphi:** Examples for using HALCON within Borland Delphi.
 - ▷ **ia_integration:** Example programs for image acquisition interfaces (see also the [Image Acquisition Interface Programmer's Manual](#)).
 - ▷ **extension_package:** The example user package `halconuser` (see also the [Extension Package Programmer's Manual](#)).

- ▷ **hdevelop:** Examples for using HALCON in HDevelop:
 - ▷ **Applications:** Examples that show how to realize machine vision applications.
 - ▷ **Classification ...XLD:** Examples for the HALCON operators, in subdirectories following the operator hierarchy as in the Reference Manuals or in HDevelop's menu Operators.
- ▷ **hdevengine:** Examples for using *HDevEngine* .
- ▷ **mfc:** Examples for using HALCON together with MFC (see also the the sections in the [Programmer's Guide](#) mentioned above).
- ▷ **motif:** Examples for using HALCON together with Motif (see also the Programmer's Guide, [chapter 7](#) on page 71).
- ▷ **qt:** Examples for using HALCON together with Qt (see also the Programmer's Guide, [chapter 7](#) on page 71).
- ▷ **solution_guide:** Examples referenced in the [Solution Guide I](#), the Solution Guide II, and the Solution Guide III.
- ▷ **vb:** Examples for using HALCON within Visual Basic, together with the example programs described in the Programmer's Guide, [chapter 14](#) on page 135.
- ▷ **vb.net:** Examples for using HALCON within Visual Basic .NET (see also the Programmer's Guide, [section 11.2](#) on page 108).

Please note that the examples should not be used directly for two reasons: First, on most platforms only the user who installed HALCON is allowed to save a (modified) example program. More importantly, on some operating systems not all users have the permission to create new files in the example subdirectories; this causes errors in example programs that contain operators that write data to files. To experiment with examples we therefore recommend to create a private copy in your own working directory. Note, however, that the .NET examples reference the HALCON/.NET assembly with a local path, thus after copying you must restore the reference (see the Programmer's Guide, [page 87](#)).

- **filter:** This directory contains predefined filter masks.
- **help:** The files in this directory act as the HALCON database, i.e., they provide information about HALCON to HDevelop and to all HALCON applications. In particular, they contain the online help for the operators. The file `index_manuals.xml` contains the index data of the manuals. The file `examples.xml` contains the data for the dialog [Browse Examples](#) in HDevelop.
- **images:** This directory contains example images and, in subdirectories, image sequences. These images are used by the example programs described above.
- **include:** This directory contains the header files that are necessary to use HALCON within the programming languages C or C++.
- **lib:** This directory contains the HALCON libraries and under Linux/UNIX also the libraries for the supported image acquisition interfaces (Windows: file extension `.lib`; Linux/UNIX: file extension `.so`), again in subdirectories corresponding to the different platforms.

- **license:** The license file `license.dat` must be placed in this directory (see [section 3.1](#) on page 27).
- **lut:** This directory contains predefined look-up tables.
- **misc:** This directory contains miscellaneous files for the installer.
- **ocr:** This directory contains pretrained fonts.
- **procedures:** This directory contains the external procedures for HDevelop.

A.2 HALCON's Environment Variables

Most of the configuration necessary to work with HALCON amounts to setting environment variables, e.g., to tell HALCON the directories where to find images or extension packages etc. These environment variables are described below, after some information regarding the different platforms.

A.2.1 Setting Environment Variables Under Windows

The installation program `Setup.exe` automatically sets the necessary environment variables, e.g., `HALCONROOT`, `HALCONIMAGES`, and `PATH` (see below). To take a look at these settings, open the dialog `Start ▷ Settings ▷ Control Panel ▷ System (Windows Vista and Windows 7: ... ▷ System ▷ Advanced System Settings)` and select `Environment`. You can add or modify a variable by entering the name of a variable and the desired value. If a value consists of multiple items, e.g., the variable `PATH`, which may contain multiple directories, those items must be separated by *semicolons*. Please note that in order to modify variables set during the HALCON installation you need administrator privileges!

A.2.2 Setting Environment Variables Under Linux/UNIX

As described in [section 2.2.2](#) on page 16, you must set the necessary environment variables in a login script or a shell resource script.

A.2.3 HALCON-Specific Environment Variables

- `HALCONROOT`

This is the most important environment variable. It designates the directory where HALCON is installed. A typical path is, for example, `C:\Program Files\MVTec\HALCON (Windows)` or `/opt/halcon (Linux/UNIX)`.

If this variable is unset at the time `HDevelop` is run, or when the HALCON library is loaded, its value will be inferred from the path the executable or the library resides in, respectively. From this path the trailing part `bin\%HALCONARCH%` or `lib\%HALCONARCH%` will be removed. The variable `HALCONROOT` will then be set to the resulting path temporarily.

Based on this variable, the system switches to subdirectories, which are important for running HALCON. Some of them are listed below; the HALCON file structure is described in [section A.1](#) on page 58.

- `%HALCONROOT%\help`

The files in this directory act as the HALCON information database (see [section A.1](#) on page 58 for more information).

- `%HALCONROOT%\doc\html\reference\hdevelop`

`HDevelop` expects the HTML files of the operator reference in this directory.

- `%HALCONROOT%\license`

This directory contains the *license file* necessary for using HALCON (see [chapter 3](#) on page 27).

- %HALCONROOT%\images

If the variable HALCONIMAGES (see below) is not set the system looks for image files in this directory.

- HALCONIMAGES

The system uses this environment variable to search for image files specified by a relative path. As a rule it contains several directory names and possibly including the CD ROM or DVD drive, separated by semicolons (Windows) or colons (Linux/UNIX).

- HALCONARCH

This variable designates the used platform. More details can be found in [section 1.3](#) on page 9.

- HALCONEXTENSIONS

This is a list of directories in which user-defined extension operators (so-called *extension packages*) are kept. Each package consists of a number of operators linked into a shared library, plus the additional operator documentation in help files and HTML files. See [section 2.12](#) on page 25 for information on how to install an extension package, and the [Extension Package Programmer's Manual](#) for details on creating your own extension packages.

- HALCONSPY

If this environment variable is defined (regardless of the value) *before you start* a HALCON program, the HALCON debugging tool *HALCON Spy* is activated. This corresponds to call the HALCON operator `set_spy` with the parameters "mode", "on" *within* a HALCON program. The main difference between the two modes for activating HALCON Spy is that by defining HALCONSPY it is possible to monitor an already linked HALCON program during runtime without modifications. For further information on how to use HALCON Spy and how to parameterize it via this environment variable please refer to the Programmer's Guide, [section 3.1](#) on page 25.

A.2.4 General Environment Variables

- PATH

Windows: During the installation, the directories %HALCONROOT%\bin\%HALCONARCH% and %HALCONROOT%\FLEX1m\%HALCONARCH% are automatically added to the system variable PATH.

Linux/UNIX: If you want to start HDevelop from an arbitrary directory, you must include the HALCON program path \$HALCONROOT/bin/\$HALCONARCH in the system variable PATH.

- LD_LIBRARY_PATH (Linux/UNIX only)

Please include the HALCON library path \$HALCONROOT/lib/\$HALCONARCH in the system variable LD_LIBRARY_PATH. This is necessary both for running HDevelop and for creating stand-alone applications.

- DISPLAY (Linux/UNIX only)

The system uses this environment variable to open windows. It is used in the same way as for other X applications.

- HOME (Linux/UNIX only)

This system variable points to your home directory.

A.3 Information for Users of ActivVisionTools

ActivVisionTools are based on HALCON, to be more exact on HALCON/COM. What makes matters more complicated is that the used HALCON functionality is not compiled into ActivVisionTools; instead, ActivVisionTools use HALCON in the same way as any other HALCON application, i.e., they expect HALCON to be installed (if not already installed, the ActivVisionTools setup installs it), locate the corresponding DLL `halconx.dll` via the registry and use it.

As only one instance of `halconx.dll` can be registered, this means that ActivVisionTools and HALCON applications use the same HALCON installation. This must be kept in mind when you want to use both HALCON and ActivVisionTools on the same computer. Of course, as long as you want to use the HALCON release that your ActivVisionTools release is based on, there is no problem. However, when you update or upgrade HALCON or ActivVisionTools, the issue of compatibility gets more complicated.

Therefore, the HALCON setup program checks whether there is an ActivVisionTools installation on the computer before installing HALCON on it and informs you about its compatibility. Some HALCON releases even offer to replace the ActivVisionTools OCX with a compatible one (see below).

[Table A.1](#) shows which ActivVisionTools releases are compatible to which HALCON releases. In principle, the same rules as described in [section 1.2](#) on page 8 for the HALCON releases themselves apply, with some differences:

- **Same HALCON version**

If an ActivVisionTools release is based on a certain (maintenance release of a) HALCON version, it should also be compatible to all other maintenance releases based on the same HALCON version. For example, ActivVisionTools 2.1, which is based on HALCON 6.1, is compatible to HALCON 6.1.1 and 6.1.2.

Sometimes, however, new HALCON maintenance releases are not fully downward compatible because of technical reasons. For example, HALCON 6.0.2 introduced a change that limited the compatibility of ActivVisionTools 1.0 - 2.0.

To fix such incompatibilities, HALCON releases may provide a replacement OCX for some ActivVisionTools versions. For example, HALCON 6.0.3 and 6.0.4 provided a replacement OCX for ActivVisionTools 2.0. If the HALCON setup program detects such an ActivVisionTools version, it offers to replace the OCX automatically. Typically, you will choose this option. If not, you can replace it manually as described below.

- **Higher HALCON version**

An ActivVisionTools release is by default not compatible to HALCON versions that are higher than its base. For example, ActivVisionTools 1.3, which is based on HALCON 6.0, is not compatible to HALCON 6.1.

When you install such a higher HALCON version, the setup program warns that by continuing you will disable your ActivVisionTools installation. If you still want to use your ActivVisionTools installation, you must also keep your old HALCON installation and switch back to it as described in [section 2.9](#) on page 23. Note that if you only want to evaluate the new HALCON version, you can minimize the switching effort by installing only the demo version: In this case there is no need to re-register the HALCON/COM interface library `halconx.dll`.

- **Lower HALCON version**

An ActivVisionTools release is not compatible to HALCON versions that are lower than its base.

Compatibility	AVT 1.0 - 1.3	AVT 2.0	AVT 2.1	AVT 2.2	AVT 3.0	AVT 3.1	AVT 3.1.1	AVT 3.2
HALCON 6.0	based on	×						
HALCON 6.0.1	×	based on						
HALCON 6.0.2	(×)	(×)						
HALCON 6.0.3	(×)	× ^{*)}						
HALCON 6.0.4	(×)	× ^{*)}						
HALCON 6.1		× ^{*)}	based on	(×)				
HALCON 6.1.1		× ^{*)}	×	based on				
HALCON 6.1.2		× ^{*)}	×	×				
HALCON 7.0				× ^{*)}				
HALCON 7.0.1				× ^{*)}	based on			
HALCON 7.0.2				× ^{*)}	×			
HALCON 7.1					× ^{**)}	based on		
HALCON 7.1.1					× ^{**)}	×	based on	
HALCON 7.1.2					× ^{**)}	×	×	
HALCON 8.0						× ^{**)}	× ^{**)}	
HALCON 8.0.1						× ^{**)}	× ^{**)}	
HALCON 8.0.2						× ^{**)}	× ^{**)}	based on
HALCON 9.0								× ^{**)}
HALCON 9.0.1								× ^{**)}
HALCON 9.0.2								× ^{**)}
HALCON 9.0.3								× ^{**)}
HALCON 9.0.4								× ^{**)}

(*) via replacement OCX

(**) contact your distributor for detailed information

Table A.1: Compatibility between the different HALCON and ActivVisionTools releases.

For example, ActivVisionTools 2.1, which is based on HALCON 6.1, is not compatible to HALCON 6.0.x.

When you install such a lower HALCON version, the setup program warns that by continuing you will disable your ActivVisionTools installation. If you still want to use your ActivVisionTools installation, you must also keep your its HALCON installation and switch back to it as described in [section 2.9](#) on page 23.

How to Replace the ActivVisionTools OCX Manually

Open a Windows Command Prompt and change into the subdirectory `bin\x86-win32` of the root directory of your ActivVisionTools installation. Unregister `ActivVTools.ocx` by typing

```
regsvr32 /u ActivVTools.ocx
```

Then delete the OCX (or rename it) and replace it by the new one. Register the new OCX by typing

```
regsvr32 ActivVTools.ocx
```

As an alternative to the Command Prompt, you can unregister and register the OCX via the dialog `Start > Run` together with the Windows Explorer: In the latter, “open” the directory `bin\x86-win32` of the root directory of your ActivVisionTools installation. Now, type `regsvr32 /u` the dialog `Run` and then drag and drop `ActivVTools.ocx` from the Explorer into the dialog, where it automatically appears with the full path. To execute the command, click `OK`. Then, replace the OCX with the new one, type `regsvr32` in the dialog `Run`, drag and drop `ActivVTools.ocx` from the Explorer into the dialog, and again click `OK`.

If you decide to switch back to an older HALCON version as described in [section 2.9](#) on page 23, you must also unregister the new OCX and register the old one; if you deleted it you can recover it from the corresponding directory on the ActivVisionTools CD.

Index

- compatibility (HALCON), 8
- directory (HALCON)
 - bin, 58
 - calib, 58
 - doc, 58
 - examples, 58
 - filter, 59
 - FLEXIm, 58
 - help, 59
 - images, 59
 - include, 59
 - lib, 59
 - license, 60
 - lut, 60
 - misc, 60
 - ocr, 60
 - procedures, 60
- dongle driver for parallel port, 48
- dongle driver for USB port
 - Linux, 49
 - Windows, 49
- environment variables (general), 62
 - DISPLAY, 62
 - HOME, 62
 - LD_LIBRARY_PATH, 62
 - PATH, 62
- environment variables (HALCON), 61
 - HALCONARCH, 62
 - HALCONEXTENSIONS, 62
 - HALCONIMAGES, 62
 - HALCONROOT, 61
 - HALCONSPY, 62
- get_modules, 38, 39
- HALCON
 - demo version, 7
 - development version, 7
 - license, 27
 - overview, 10
 - maintenance release, 8
 - runtime version, 7
 - system requirements, 9
 - version (HALCON), 8
- host ID
 - get ID of network card, 33
 - get manually, 30
 - troubleshooting, 47
- install HALCON, 13
 - additional parts, 18
 - customize, 20
 - extension package, 25
 - first time, 14
 - image acquisition interface, 25
 - runtime version, 19
 - troubleshooting, 41
- installed file structure, 58
- license
 - development license, 32
 - evaluation license, 30
 - floating development license, 35
 - for terminal server, 33
 - get required HALCON modules, 38
 - license file, 27
 - nodelocked development license bound to dongle, 34
 - nodelocked development license bound to network card, 33
 - runtime license, 38
 - supported hardware for binding, 29
 - troubleshooting, 47
 - upgrade, 40
- license manager daemon, 50

- register halconx.dll (HALCON/COM), [41](#)
- set environment variables
 - Linux/UNIX, [61](#)
 - Windows, [61](#)
- set_spy, [62](#)
- switch between HALCON platform versions,
[24](#)
- switch between HALCON versions, [23](#)
- troubleshooting (miscellaneous), [55](#)
- uninstall HALCON, [20](#)
 - troubleshooting, [42](#)
- unregister halconx.dll (HALCON/COM), [42](#)
- update HALCON, [20](#)
- upgrade HALCON, [20](#)
- use ActivVisionTools and HALCON, [63](#)