

ETABS® Version 18.0.0

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ETABS v18.0.0 is a major upgrade from ETABS v17, and is distributed electronically by download from the internet using the CSI Installation Wizard.

PLEASE READ THIS FILE!

It contains important information that may be more current than what is in the Manuals.

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1. Installation Instructions for ETABS v18.0.0

ETABS v18.0.0 is available electronically as a full installation by download from the internet using the CSI Installation Wizard. Installing ETABS v18 will not uninstall older versions of ETABS.

ETABS v18.0.0 is available only as a 64-bit application, and must be installed and run on a 64-bit Windows operating system. Windows 7 SP1 (with latest Windows Updates), Windows 8.1 (with Update 2919355), and Windows 10 Build 1507 or higher are currently supported. Whether you are using a standalone license or a network license, the full application must be installed on each workstation where ETABS will be used.

Use the Installation Wizard to guide you step-by-step through the process of installation and licensing.

Before installation, be sure you have your Activation Key available if you will be using a Standalone license. You should have received this by email from CSI or your local CSI Partner. If you will be using a Network license, it is necessary to have the licenses already activated on the license server that is accessible to the workstation.

To begin the CSI Installation Wizard, click this link:

<http://www.csiamerica.com/go/installation-wizard>

The Wizard will start and guide you through the process. The actual files needed for installation will be downloaded as necessary. An active internet connection is required throughout the installation and licensing process.

The license activation server ports are 80 and 443. If either of these ports is blocked, they need to be opened if you are activating a Standalone license.

Windows User Account Control (UAC)

For current versions of the Windows operating system, User Account Control (UAC) is enabled by default. When UAC is turned on, you must explicitly give permission to any program that wants to use "Administrative" privileges. Any program that tries to use Administrative privileges without your permission will be denied access.

The installation of ETABS and the activation of the license require "Administrative" privileges to run. When installing ETABS with UAC enabled, you should expect to be prompted to allow the installer access to system folders and the Windows registry. Please allow it to continue so that the installation can complete.

2. Installation Instructions for License Manager 9.4

The information in this section does not apply if you are using Standalone licenses.

License Server

If you are already serving ETABS v18 licenses, you can skip this section on the License Server. Otherwise, please follow these instructions.

Sentinel RMS License Manager 9.4 and the ***Sentinel RMS 9.4 Utilities*** must both be installed on a license server, which is usually *not* one of the client workstations.

If you are already running RMS License Manager version 9.4, then you only need to add the ETABS v18 licenses. If you are running an older version of RMS, you will need to upgrade to version 9.4. If you are not yet running RMS at all, then you need to install the 9.4 version of the License Manager and the Utilities.

All of these options are best done using the [CSI Installation Wizard](#), which will guide you through the steps necessary to handle your specific situation. If this will include upgrading a previous version of RMS to 9.4, you should do this at a time when no users are running software that is using any of the existing licenses.

An active internet connection is required throughout the installation and licensing process. The license activation server ports are 80 and 443. If either of these ports is blocked, they need to be opened if you are activating a Network license.

If you prefer to do this without using the Wizard, further information can be found on the [CSI wiki page](#) for this topic.

On the client workstations

To speed up finding a network license when ETABS is launched, you can do either or both of the following:

- Create a text file, LEVEL.TXT, and enter the *ProgramLevel* in a single line. The *ProgramLevel* should be one of the following:

ULTIMATE / NONLINEAR / PLUS / ULTIMATEC / NONLINEARC / PLUSC /
PLUSCD / PLUSCC / PLUSCS / ULTIMATEI / NONLINEARI / PLUSI

Save this file to the folder where ETABS v18 is installed. This file will cause the program to find the license faster.

- Create a text file, LMHOST.INI, and enter the network name or IP address of the machine that is running the License Manager. If you are serving licenses on more than one machine, enter each name or IP address on a separate line of text. Save this file to the folder where ETABS v18 is installed.
- Either the LEVEL.TXT file or the LMHOST.INI file can also be placed in the user settings folder, which can be found by entering “%LocalAppData%\Computers and Structures\ETABS 18” (without quotes) in Windows Explorer. Accessing this folder does not require administrative permissions like the installation folder does. Files located in the user settings folder will take precedence over those in the installation folder.

As an alternative to using the LEVEL.TXT file, you can specify the program level as a command-line option. To do this, use the Windows Run command or create a shortcut pointing to ETABS.exe in the installation folder. Add the following text to the command line after “ETABS.exe”

/L *ProgramLevel*

where *ProgramLevel* is one of the values listed above for the LEVEL.TXT file. Specifying *ProgramLevel* on the command line will supersede the value in the LEVEL.TXT file.

3. New Features for ETABS v18

ETABS v18 is a major new release, and significant new features have been added or enhanced since ETABS v17.

For more information about this release, please visit the ETABS Releases page at <http://www.csiamerica.com/products/etabs/releases>.

An overview of the full power of ETABS is available at <http://www.csiamerica.com/products/etabs>.

A complete list of all changes is provided in the separate file ReleaseNotes.PDF in the Manuals subfolder of the installation folder and is also available when running ETABS using the command *Help > Documentation*.

4. New Product CSiDetail™

A new product, CSiDetail™, for creating detailed drawings of concrete and steel structures is being released in conjunction with ETABS v18.

Features include:

- Structural model and designed reinforcement from ETABS
- Creation of framing plans and schedules for steel frames
- Creation of framing plans and schedules for composite floors
- Reinforcing details for concrete beams and columns
- Reinforcing details for concrete shear wall elevations and cross-sections
- Customizable detailing rules
- Customizable user reinforcement in beams and columns
- Customizable drawing sheets with multiple views
- Automated bill of quantities
- Print or export drawings to AutoCAD
- Export reinforcement details of beams and columns to Revit

One free license of CSiDetail will be available for each valid commercial license of ETABS v17 in effect at the time ETABS v18.0.0 is first released. For additional licenses of CSiDetail, please contact CSI Sales. Future upgrades of CSiDetail will require a separate Maintenance contract or upgrade fee.

5. File Compatibility with Older Versions

ETABS Version 18.0.0 can open model files (*.EDB), as well as import ETABS text files (*.E2K and *.SET), from the previous major version of ETABS (v17.0.0 to v17.0.1), unless specifically stated otherwise in this document. In most cases ETABS v18.0.0 can directly open model files from older versions as well, but if not, they can usually be opened by using the intermediate versions in sequence. CSI cannot be responsible for opening model files for older versions that cannot be run on recent machines or operating systems due to changes beyond CSI's control.

Note that in certain cases results may differ for models run in newer versions compared to older versions due to enhancements and bug fixes as documented in the Release Notes for the intervening versions. Note that once you save or run older models in v18.0.0, they will not be usable by older versions of the program, so you should save them under a new name after opening or importing them in v18.0.0.