



RLM and RLM Activation Pro – what's the difference?

A white paper

Often, people are a bit confused by the Reprise product line, in particular, the difference between RLM and RLM Activation Pro. The 2 products work together, and both products involve a server component, so there is often confusion between the license server and the activation server.

Let's start with a couple of definitions:

- RLM (the Reprise License Manager) is a **software license manager**. You (a software publisher) integrate RLM into your product, and RLM keeps track at runtime who is using the licenses of your software. RLM can do this entirely within the **client library** (linked into your application), or, more commonly, your application makes a request of the **RLM License Server** to check out a license. The license server runs either on your customer's network, or in the cloud if you are using our RLMCloud service. Your application uses RLM each time it runs to verify that the license rights are present enabling use. RLM, however, never gets involved in the issuing of the actual licenses to your customers.
- RLM Activation Pro, on the other hand, is a **Software Activation** product. Software Activation's purpose in life is to get the licenses for your product to your customers with a minimum of fuss. Activation Pro also has a server component which we call the **activation server**. Your application contacts the activation server and supplies a short text **activation key**, and in exchange, the activation server returns the license which enables your product. Generally, this is done once, right after your customer purchases your software, not every time your software is invoked.

So in summary, RLM provides runtime checking that your application is licensed to run and that the current usage of your application is within the limits you have set, every time your application runs. Activation Pro is used once when your customer purchases your software in order to retrieve the license which is specific to that customer.

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About Reprise Software

Reprise Software was founded in 2006 by the creators of FLEXlm. We develop software licensing products, and software licensing products only. Benefit from our 28+ years of experience in the field of license management to have an 'it just works' experience. At Reprise we constantly focus on making our products easier to install and use, so you can have licensing as a benefit - not as an obstacle - to your daily work. Reprise Software is driven to make RLM the best software licensing system available while helping lower the total cost of ownership of licensed applications for both software vendors and their customers.