

GENIUS TOOLS[®] 

GENIUS TOOLS Starter

Release 7.0.2.0

Release information

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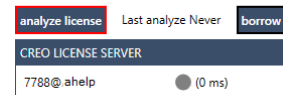
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1 Important information

GENIUS TOOLS Starter App: Query on the availability of licenses and license servers has changed (new feature in version 7.0.1.0)

The license analysis no longer takes place automatically when GENIUS TOOLS Starter App is opened or updated. Only after clicking the *Analyze License* button in the Licenses tab will up-to-date information on the accessibility of Creo license servers be displayed together with information on all available licenses and extensions for the selected project. (See Free column). Also, the time passed since the last analysis is shown.

Info Licenses Config



The Analyze License function can be disabled by the administrator. Read more in [New features in version 7.0.1.0](#).

GENIUS TOOLS Project Configurator: Behavior of license settings changed (7.0.2.0)

The following options can no longer be used. Please check your licenses.

The selection fields *Display Creo startkeys* and *Mode* have been deleted:

1. *Display Creo startkeys* in the *Licenses* tab (*Projects > Licenses-tab*)

Startkeys available for selection for a project can either be only the startkeys set for this project or include startkeys set for higher-ranking groups or units.

No selection (default): Users can select from the startkeys generated by the general hierarchy.

Additive: User can choose from these startkeys as well as startkeys from superordinate groups and unit that contain the project.

Overwrite: User can choose from these startkeys. Startkeys from superordinate groups and unit are disregarded.

2. *Mode* in the section *Creo license servers* (*Configuration > Creo Settings > Application*)

The license server selected above can differ from the information in Creo startkey. Define here, how the selected Creo license server shall be used.

No selection: Same as option *PSF file* (default).

Overwrite: The selected Creo license server overwrites the information from Creo startkey (PSF file.)

Prepend: The selected Creo license server is queried first. If it is not available, the license server set in the Creo startkey are used.

Append: The selected Creo license server is queried last, i.e. only if the license server(s) in the Creo startkey is/are unavailable.

PSF file (default): The license server(s) set in the Creo startkey are used.

Different functionality depending on license type

Starting with version 6.0.1, perpetual licenses and subscription licenses come with different product functionality. The following functions will only be available with a subscription license.

The following functions are available with a subscription license for GENIUS TOOLS Starter.

Release	Function / module	Description
6.0.1.0	Dynamic access to Windows user management with LDAP/Active Directory (lightweight directory access protocol)	Creates access to Windows user management and enables live queries so that user assignment is always up-to-date. Users thus do not have to be created and maintained manually. ⇒ Less maintenance work
6.0.1.0	Configuring units	Adds a group element ("unit") that can easily reflect complex configurations such as for company sites and units. ⇒ Easier configuration for companies with many sites and/ or units ⇒ Allows for a reduction of projects
6.0.1.0	Access to directory "users"	Adds a group element ("users") that can easily reflect complex configurations for many users. ⇒ Less maintenance work
7.0.0.0	Selecting Creo startkey when starting a project	Provides a project with a choice from several Creo startkeys (start command that opens Creo with a defined license package). Users can start a project with a default startkey or select another one when opening a project in GENIUS TOOLS Starter App. ⇒ Allows the reduction of projects
7.0.0.0	Apps projects	Creates projects that run on any other program.

Release	Function / module	Description
		Assigning a project directory and batch files is possible. ⇒ GENIUS TOOLS Starter App can be made the central access point for users.
7.0.1.0	Operating satellites in GENIUS TOOLS Starter Service	Enables the connection of satellite servers to a main server and their automatic synchronization. ⇒ Faster connection of user computers to a synchronized satellite server ⇒ Reducing queries from network to main server
7.0.1.0	Edit and compare config*.pro files.	Release-dependent config.pro editor and graphic comparison tool ⇒ Quick overview, comparison and editing of project-related config.pro files
7.0.2.0	Company-specific project groups	Start projects can be put together in defined project groups by the administrator. ⇒ In many projects, these can be structured according to your own requirements.

Warning: If you are using mixed licenses (perpetual and subscription) and configure functionality that is limited to subscription licenses, the projects in GENIUS TOOLS Starter App will no longer start if there is no subscription license available.

Environment variables for use in mapkeys (new feature in version 6.0.2.0)

Starting with version 6.0.2.0 variables in configuration files are resolved. This means mapkeys that use environment variables with path specifications do not function anymore.

We therefore introduced new variants of environment variables to which escape characters are added. This prevents the variables from being erroneously resolved in mapkeys and so their use can be continued in mapkeys and elsewhere. The new variables have the suffix `_ESCAPED`:

- GTS_DATA_ESCAPED
- GTS_ROOT_DIR_ESCAPED

- GTS_SERVER_DIR_ESCAPED
- GTS_SERVERONLY_DIR_ESCAPED
- GTS_PLOT_CONFIG_DIR_ESCAPED
- GTS_TRAIL_DIR_ESCAPED
- GTS_USER_CONFIG_DIR_ESCAPED
- GTS_UNIT_DIR_ESCAPED

Changes to the configuration concept starting with version 6.0.1.0

In Version 6.0.1.0 the way configuration files determine project settings has changed.

Configuration changes for all license types

All files that were previously used from the `..\configuration\projects` directory now have to be placed in the `..\configuration\standard` directory. This affects batch files (*start/stop*.bat*), Creo configuration files (*config_*.pro/sup; *.ui*), and GENIUS TOOLS for Creo configuration files (**.cfg*).

All files under `..\configuration\projects` will be copied to `..\configuration\standard` when you update from version 6.0.0 or migrate from a 20xx version. The entry in the *gt_main.cfg* under `..\apps\gtfc\conf` will be set to *gt_conf_unit=%GTS_ROOT_DIR%\configuration\standard*.

Please note: Remember to check the *gt_main.cfg* after the update if you are not using a default installation.

Warning: Check your batch files for references to the directory `..\configuration\projects` and change them to `..\configuration\standard`.

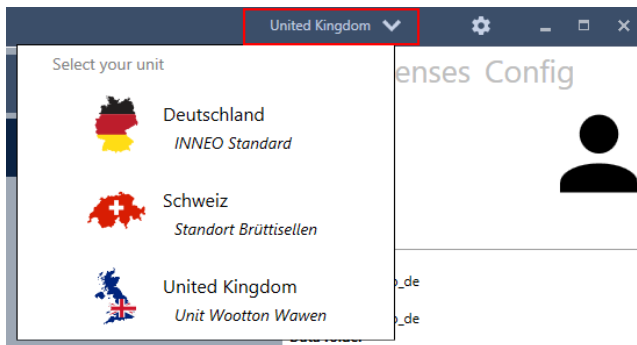
The directory structure of an operating environment will contain the following new directories.

<code>..\configuration\standard</code>	Purpose and content match the previous <code>..\configuration\projects</code> directory.
<code>..\configuration\units</code>	Can contain a subdirectory for each unit that houses additional batch and configuration files.
<code>..\configuration\users</code>	Can contain a subdirectory for each user (the directory name is the Windows user name) that houses additional batch and configuration files.

Configuration using units for subscription licenses

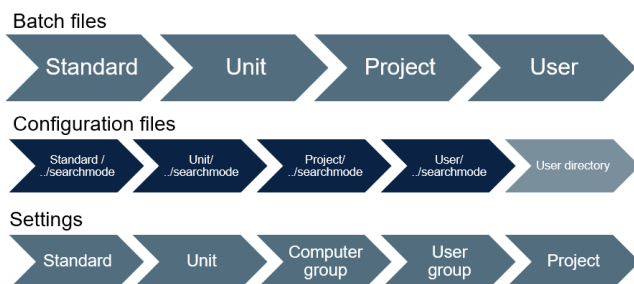
If you are using a subscription license, you can configure two additional layers for batch files and Creo configuration files: Units and Users. In larger installations, this makes it easier to configure different settings for different locations or business units.

A unit can be used to represent different concepts such as geographical or team assignment. If a user has access to multiple units, they can select their unit in the GENIUS TOOLS Starter App.



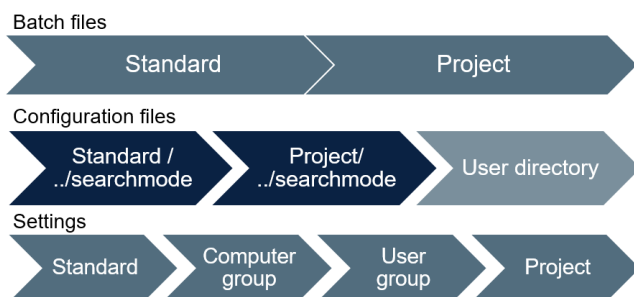
Unit selection

The following figure shows a schematic representation of the new configuration concept.



Configuration concept from 6.0.1

For reference, this is a schematic representation of the previous concept.



Configuration concept 6.0.0

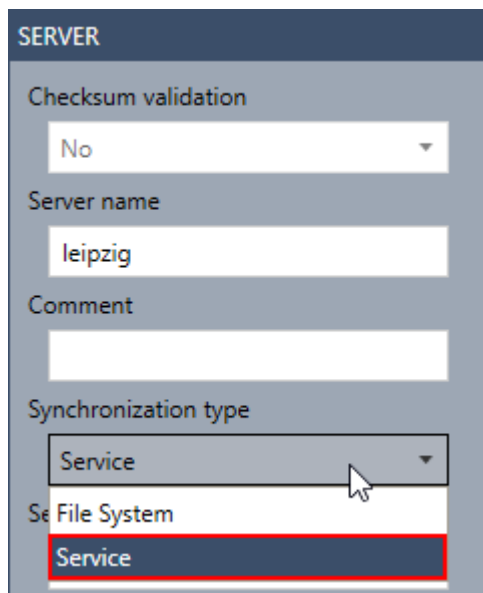
2 New features in version 7

New service: GENIUS TOOLS Starter Service for faster data synchronization (7.0.0.0)

GENIUS TOOLS Starter Service is a service for faster data synchronisation between the caddepot directory of the installation computer and the cadpool directory of the user computer. The service checks files for changes and synchronizes only these changes instead of synchronizing all files. This reduces the synchronization time significantly and will be especially useful when connection speed is slow.

GENIUS TOOLS Starter Service can be installed on the installation computer with the software update to version 7.0.0.0 and later versions. It will be located in the *gts-service-latest* directory in the installdpot and will be updated automatically to the latest version. The service checks the caddepot for changes and writes these changes into the zip file *gts_filetree_structure.zip* in the operating environment.

After installing GENIUS TOOLS Starter App you need to open GENIUS TOOLS Project Configurator and switch the synchronization type to *Service* in *Configuration > Synchronization > Server*.



SERVER

Checksum validation

No

Server name

leipzig

Comment

Synchronization type

Service

Set File System

Service

Hint: If you have not installed GENIUS TOOLS Starter Service during setup, start the file *registerService.cmd* in the directory *gtsa-service-latest* for installation. Administration rights are needed.

New type of project: Apps projects (7.0.0.0)

An administrator can now offer users projects that run on any other program or just quick access to a single file. GENIUS TOOLS Starter App can thus be made a central access point for users.

Projects running on other programs are created and managed in the project lists in the menu item *Apps*. This opens a dialog with the following, simplified settings: general project settings, complete start command, startup directory, data directory and project directory where project-specific batch files can be stored.

New resource: managing different license packages with Creo startkeys (7.0.0.0)

The main menu *Resources* now includes the possibility to create and manage Creo startkeys. A startkey is a configured start command that opens Creo with one or several defined licenses or license extensions. Startkeys can be managed in GENIUS TOOLS Project Configurator after creating them in the PTC installation assistant (when setting up or reconfiguring Creo) as PSF files in PTC's *bin* directory.

Creo startkeys: Possibility to provide users with a selection of several startkeys (7.0.0.0)

Creo startkeys can be assigned to the standard settings, groups, units or individual projects in the new tab *Licences*. The tab is found directly in the main menu *Projects* and – for groups, units and standard – in *Configuration > Creo settings*.

An administrator can provide users with a selection of several Creo startkeys for a project so that the quantity of projects can be minimized.

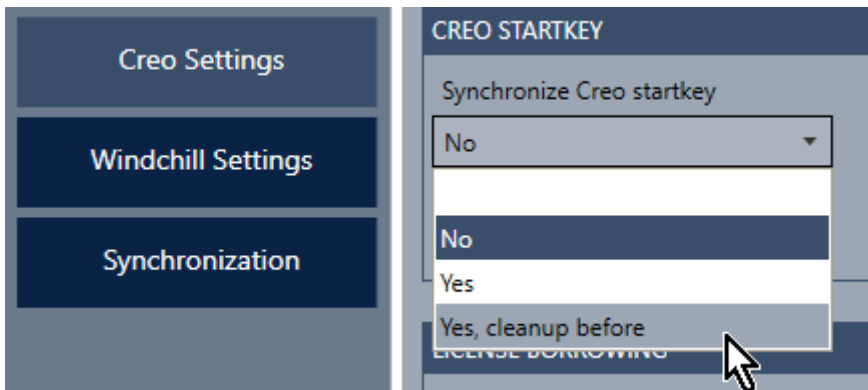
If several startkeys are made available to a project, users can select one of them in GENIUS TOOLS Starter App. Projects with a selection of startkeys can either be defined to have a startkey set on default or reuse the startkey that was last selected by the user.

In addition administrators can specify whether the startkeys to choose from should only be those assigned to the project or group or also include those from groups or units of higher order. Thus the choice of license packages can either be extended or be completely overwritten. (See behavior in the *Licences* tab: Additive vs Overwritten).

Creo startkeys: cleaning up and synchronizing before starting a project (7.0.0.0)

There is a new option for synchronising Creo startkeys (start command). In the dialog *Configuration > Groups > Creo settings > Synchronize Creo startkeys* Creo startkeys can

now be deleted from PTC's bin directory of the relevant Creo version, except *cocreatesim.psf* and *gts.psf*. This allows you to use startkeys with different license servers.



Creo startup settings: enforcing data synchronization before project start (7.0.0.0)

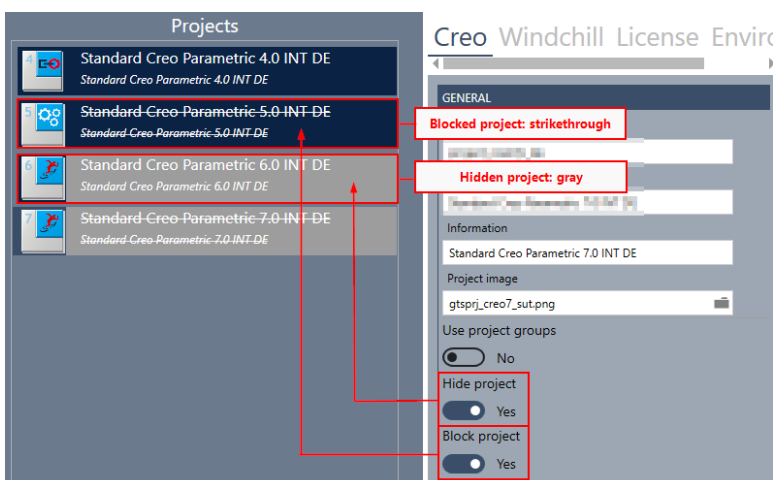
The behavior of Creo at project start can be changed so that all data is synchronized with project start, i. e. independent of the set synchronization interval. In the main menu *Configuration* go to *Creo settings* > *Synchronize with project start* and select:

No (default): No data is synchronized before opening a project.

Yes: Data is synchronized before project start, i. e. the following subdirectories in the *configuration* directory: *plot*, *standard*, *units*, *projects* and *users*.

Projects in GENIUS TOOLS Project Configurator: improved status display (7.0.0.0)

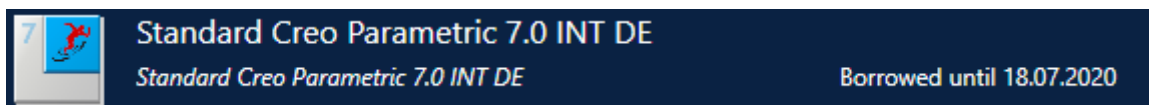
The status of a project can be better spotted: Blocked projects are displayed in gray in GENIUS TOOLS Project Configurator, hidden projects are stroked through. (In *Projects* > *Application Type* > *Projects* > *Tab: Creo* > *Block: General*.)



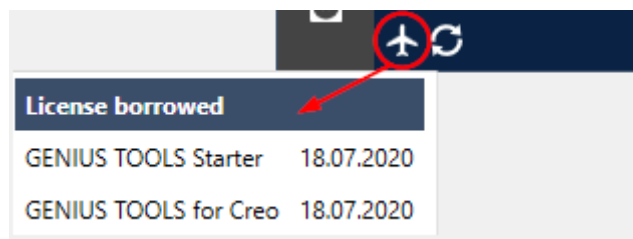
A hidden project is a project that is not listed in GENIUS TOOLS Starter App, but can still be started using a start parameter. A blocked project, by contrast, cannot be started using a start parameter.

Projects in GENIUS TOOLS Starter App: improved display for license borrowing (7.0.0.0)

In the main window of GENIUS TOOLS Starter App projects with a borrowed license can now be quicker recognized by the note on the right which informs about the period a license is borrowed.



In the footer you can view in the tooltip of the plane button which GENIUS TOOLS licenses have been borrowed and for how long.



GENIUS TOOLS Starter Service: Working with satellites (7.0.1.0)


With GENIUS TOOLS Starter 7.0.1.0 the data synchronization of GENIUS TOOLS Starter Service can be operated with satellites. The status of one or more working environments of a central main server is mirrored on a satellite.

Locations that have a slow connection to the main server can access a more accessible satellite instead. This significantly reduces the time needed for data synchronization.

GENIUS TOOLS Starter App automatically determines which satellite or main server responds fastest based on the ping runtime. This is then used for synchronization.

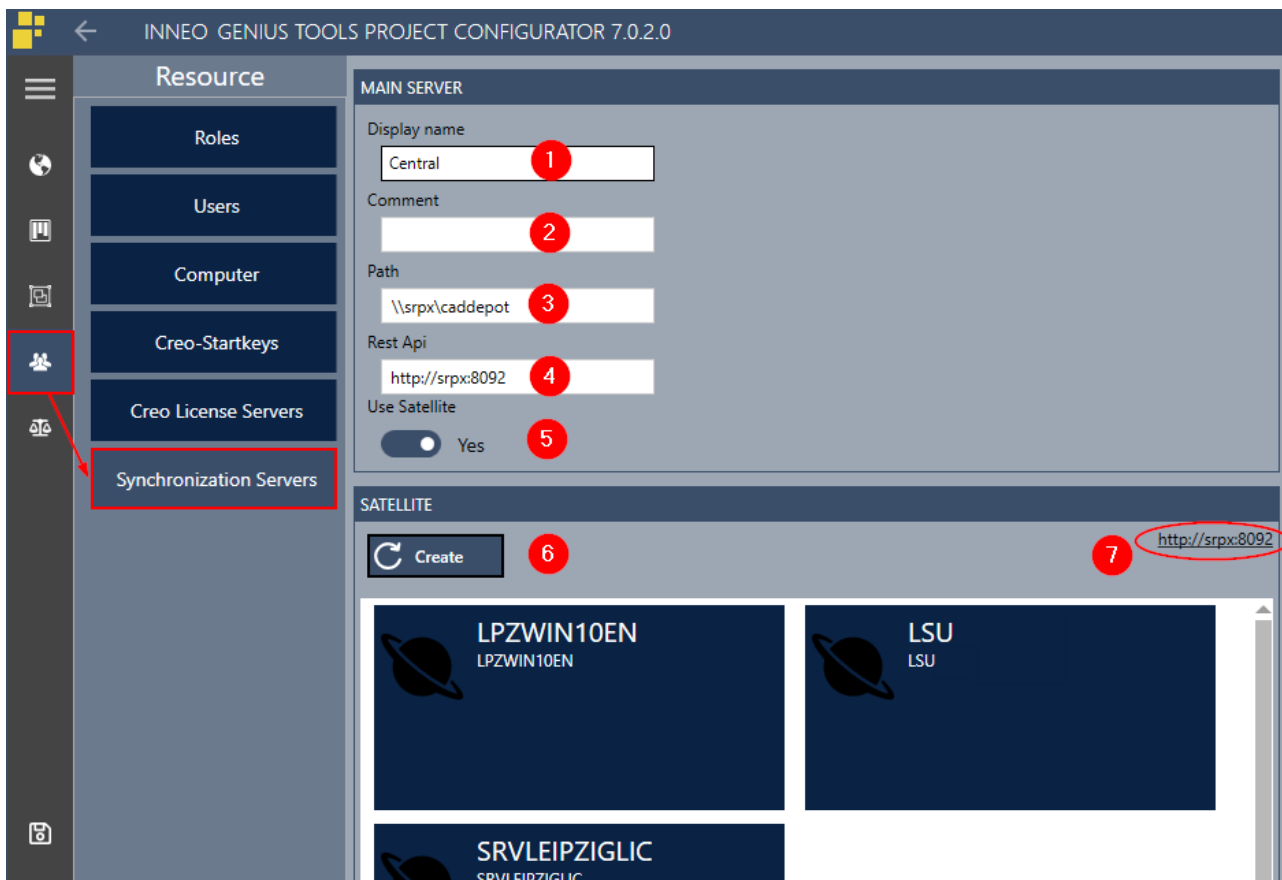
Read the document *GENIUS TOOLS Starter Installation.pdf* > chapter GENIUS TOOLS Starter Service for information on how to set up satellites.

GENIUS TOOLS Project Configurator: New resource synchronization servers (7.0.1.0)

In the *Resources* page  you can add synchronization servers that have been installed by using GENIUS TOOL Starter Service. (See above paragraph.)


Fields 1-3 (Display, Comment, Path) show the information entered in the GENIUS TOOLS Environment Administrator. The Web URL (4) is taken from the configuration file you

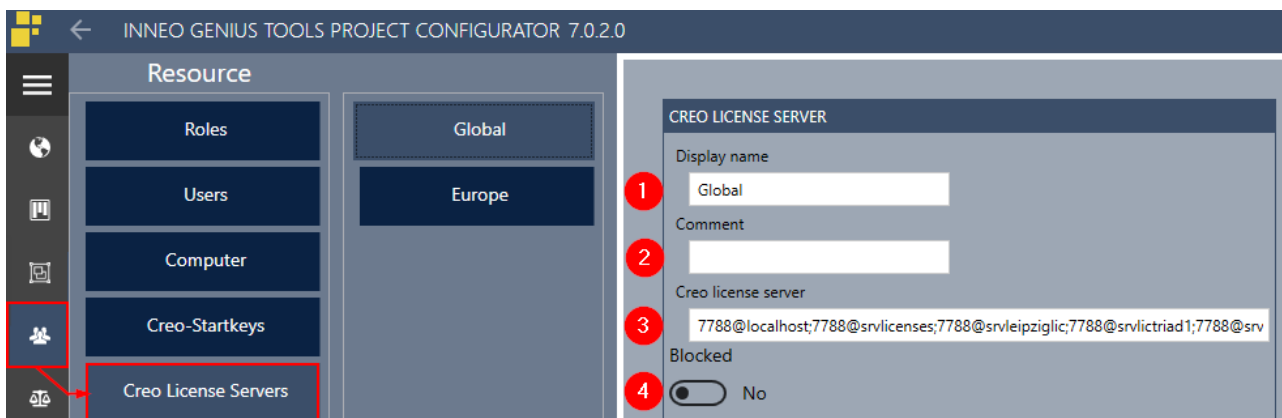
created for GENIUS TOOLS Starter Service. The action *Create* (5) connects GENIUS TOOLS Starter to GENIUS TOOLS Starter Service and displays all current satellites.



Linking satellites to GENIUS TOOLS Starter

GENIUS TOOLS Project Configurator: New resource Creo license servers (7.0.1.0)

In the *Resources* page  you can group one or several license servers as one resource which you can then assign to a project, unit or group.

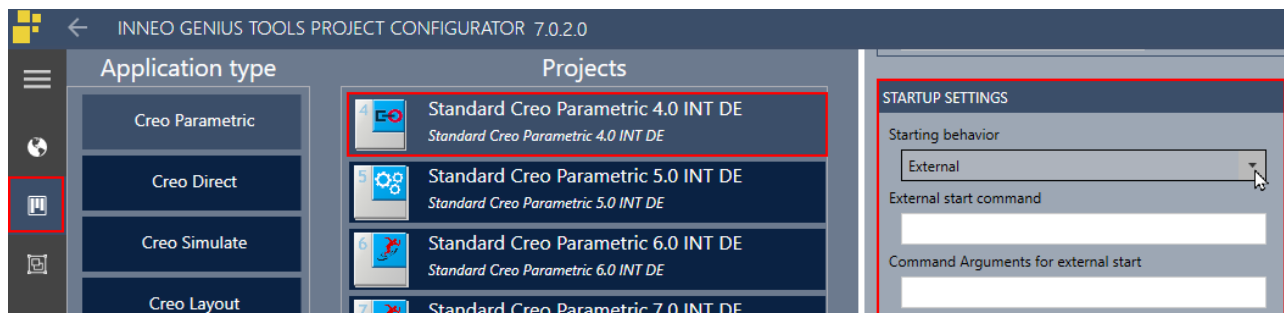


Managing Creo license servers in Resources

GENIUS TOOLS Project Configurator: Open projects with external application (7.0.1.0)

GENIUS TOOLS Starter offers the possibility to open a Creo project with a user-defined command. You can use this option, for example, to link Creo projects with SAP (SAP Engineering Control Center interface to PTC Creo).

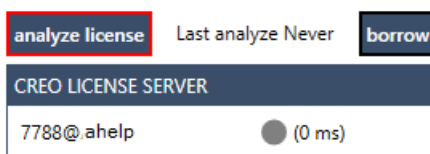
To use other applications that start a Creo project, change the start behavior of the project from Creo to External. (*GENIUS TOOLS Project Configurator > Projects > Creo tab > Startup behavior*)



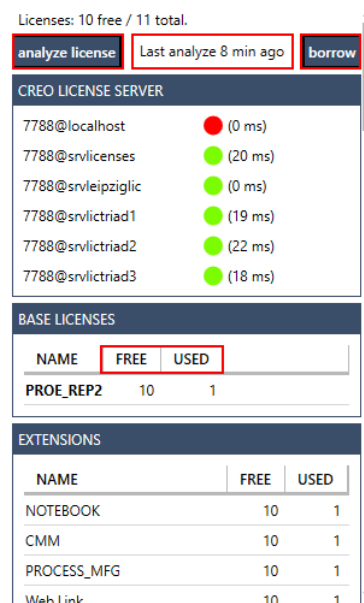
GENIUS TOOLS Starter App: Query on the availability of licenses and license servers has changed (7.0.1.0)

The license analysis no longer takes place automatically when the GENIUS TOOLS Starter App is opened or updated. Only by clicking the *Analyze License* button will information on the accessibility of Creo license servers be listed as well as all available licenses and extensions for the selected project. (See Free column). Also, the time passed since the last analysis is shown.

Info Licenses Config



Info Licenses Config

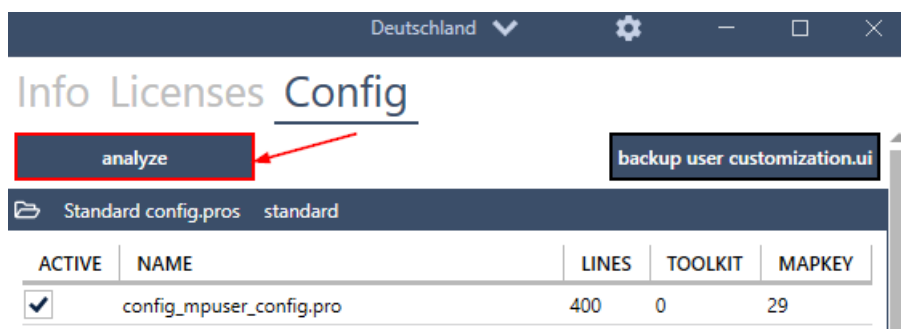


GENIUS TOOLS Starter App: Disabling Analyze License function (7.0.1.0)

The *Analyze License* function can be disabled by the administrator. This will also delete details of the required license servers in the Licenses tab.

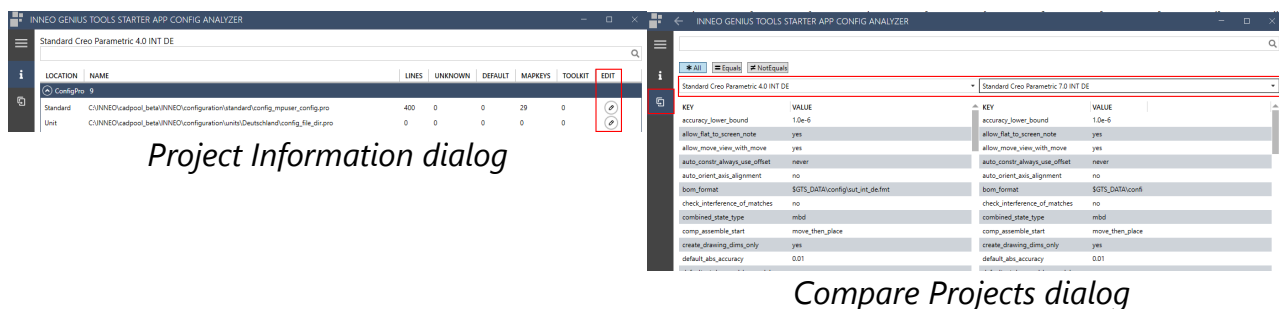
The display of Creo license server can be hidden together with the *Analyze License* function (1) in GENIUS TOOLS Project Configurator under *Access Rights > Function Access > Select: Access Group > Section: Function Access > Can see licenses*. Make sure that the option *Show Licenses in Configuration > Creo Settings > Tab: Application > Section: Licenses* is also set to Yes.

GENIUS TOOLS Starter App Config Analyzer: analyze configuration files (7.0.1.0)



On the left of the Config tab the button analyze (1) opens GENIUS TOOLS Starter App Config Analyzer. In the *Project Information* dialog this tool lists all configuration and batch files that are need for a project as well as their locations. You can click on a file and edit it directly in the editor of the analyzer tool.

The dialog *Compare Projects* allows you to directly compare the configuration settings of two projects.



GENIUS TOOLS Starter Service: using passive satellites (7.0.2.0)

Passive satellites are an alternative to working with active satellites. No server needs to be operated and no service needs to be added. The state of one or more working environments of a central main server is mirrored on a storage location of a computer (net share) without installing GENIUS TOOLS Starter Service. This reduces the network load.

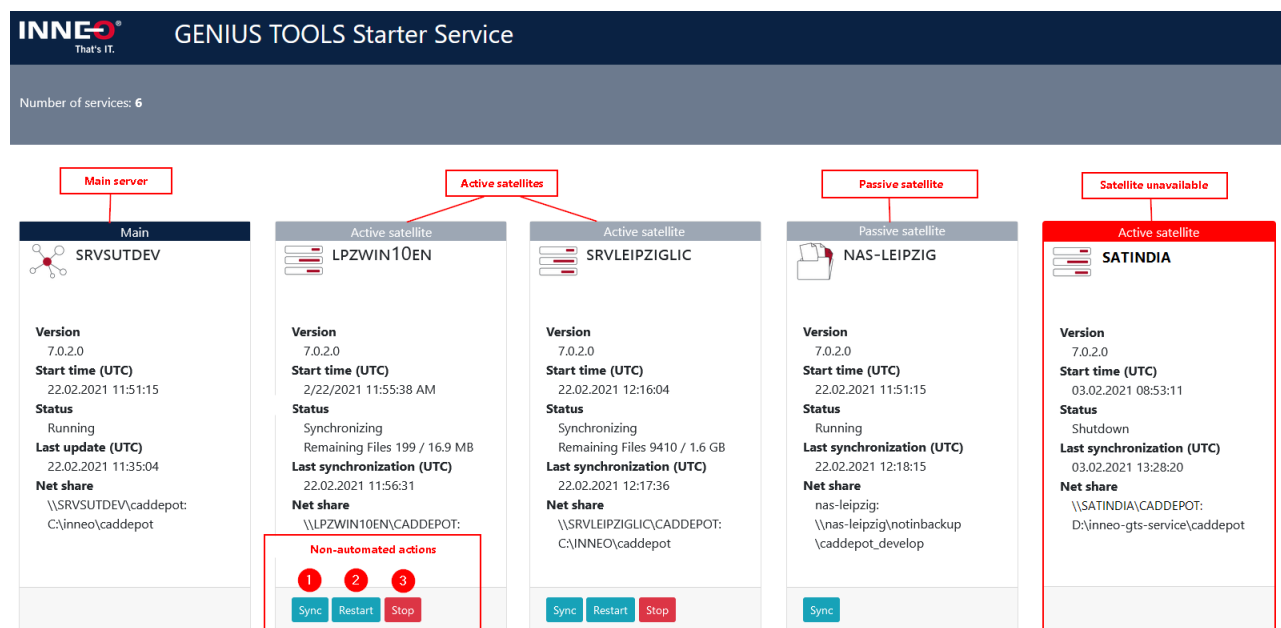
Locations with a slow connection to the main server can instead access the more accessible passive satellite. This significantly reduces the time for data synchronization. GENIUS TOOLS Starter App automatically determines, based on the ping runtime, which satellite or main server responds fastest and uses this for synchronization.

Read the installation instructions for passive satellites in the document *GENIUS TOOLS Starter Installation.pdf* > chapter GENIUS TOOLS Starter Service.

GENIUS TOOLS Starter Service: Initiate synchronization and stop service (7.0.2.0)

There are new functions in the web overview of GENIUS TOOLS Starter Service, which lists the satellites.

1. Sync: synchronize a satellite immediately regardless of the configured interval,
2. Restart: restart GENIUS TOOLS Starter Service on active satellites and
3. Stop: end GENIUS TOOLS Starter Service on active satellites. This action requires the service to be restarted at the satellite server.



The screenshot shows the GENIUS TOOLS Starter Service web overview. At the top, it says 'Number of services: 6'. Below this, there are five panels representing different servers/satellites:

- Main server:** SRVSUTDEV. Version: 7.0.2.0. Start time (UTC): 22.02.2021 11:51:15. Status: Running. Last update (UTC): 22.02.2021 11:35:04. Net share: \\SRVSUTDEV\caddepot; C:\inneo\caddepot.
- Active satellites:**
 - LPZWIN10EN: Version: 7.0.2.0. Start time (UTC): 2/22/2021 11:55:38 AM. Status: Synchronizing. Remaining Files 199 / 16.9 MB. Last synchronization (UTC): 22.02.2021 11:56:31. Net share: \\LPZWIN10EN\CADDEPOT; C:\inneo\caddepot.
 - SRVLEIPZIGLIC: Version: 7.0.2.0. Start time (UTC): 22.02.2021 12:16:04. Status: Synchronizing. Remaining Files 9410 / 1.6 GB. Last synchronization (UTC): 22.02.2021 12:17:36. Net share: \\SRVLEIPZIGLIC\CADDEPOT; C:\inneo\caddepot.
- Passive satellite:** NAS-LEIPZIG. Version: 7.0.2.0. Start time (UTC): 22.02.2021 11:51:15. Status: Running. Last synchronization (UTC): 22.02.2021 12:18:15. Net share: nas-leipzig; \\nas-leipzig\notinbackup; \caddepot_develop.
- Satellite unavailable:** SATINDIA. Version: 7.0.2.0. Start time (UTC): 03.02.2021 08:53:11. Status: Shutdown. Last synchronization (UTC): 03.02.2021 13:28:20. Net share: \\SATINDIA\CADDEPOT; D:\inneo-gts-service\caddepot.

At the bottom of the active satellites section, there is a 'Non-automated actions' section with three buttons: Sync, Restart, and Stop.

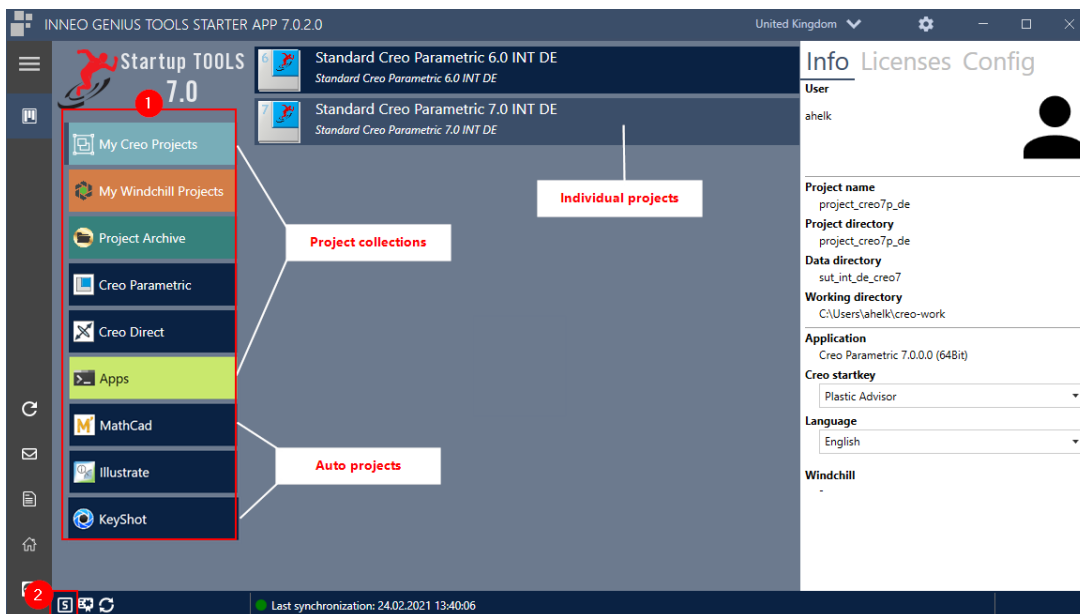
Browser window: Overview of Main server and all satellites

GENIUS TOOLS Starter App: Changes to user interface (7.0.2.0)

Individual projects can now be organized into collections (1), which are displayed to users in GENIUS TOOLS Starter App. This is especially helpful for companies that work with many projects.

Additionally, auto projects are displayed in the new column. These are automatically generated projects that cannot be configured. Auto projects are generated from MathCad,

Illustrate, Creo Elements/ Direct Modeling, Creo Elements/ Direct Drafting, Schematics, Keyshot and GeomagicDesignX applications.



In addition, a new field has been added to the footer (2) that provides information about the status of the database.

- Database requires a subscription license. Projects cannot be started when working with a permanent license.
- Database has been created with a permanent license. It can be accessed by both permanent and subscription license.

GENIUS TOOLS Project Configurator: Create project collections (7.0.2.0)

Individual projects can be combined in the new main menu item *Project Collections* . Project Collections are displayed to all users in GENIUS TOOLS Starter App. Within a collection, only the projects to which a user has access to are displayed. If a user does not have access to any of the projects, the button for the collection will not be displayed.

The order, both of the collections and of individual projects, can be set here using drag-and-drop. Each collection can be fitted with an individual color and an image.

There is a distinction between company-specific project collections, which can include any project, and application-specific project collections, which contain all projects of an application.

GENIUS TOOLS Project Configurator: Behavior of license settings changed (7.0.2.0)

The following options can no longer be used. Please check your licenses.

The selection fields *Display Creo startkeys* and *Mode* have been deleted:

1. *Display Creo startkeys* in the *Licenses* tab (*Projects > Licenses-tab*)

Startkeys available for selection for a project can either be only the startkeys set for this project or include startkeys set for higher-ranking groups or units.

No selection (default): Users can select from the startkeys generated by the general hierarchy.

Additive: User can choose from these startkeys as well as startkeys from superordinate groups and unit that contain the project.

Overwrite: User can choose from these startkeys. Startkeys from superordinate groups and unit are disregarded.

2. *Mode* in the section *Creo license servers* (*Configuration > Creo Settings > Application*)

The license server selected above can differ from the information in Creo startkey. Define here, how the selected Creo license server shall be used.

No selection: Same as option *PSF file* (default).

Overwrite: The selected Creo license server overwrites the information from Creo startkey (PSF file.)

Prepend: The selected Creo license server is queried first. If it is not available, the license server set in the Creo startkey are used.

Append: The selected Creo license server is queried last, i.e. only if the license server(s) in the Creo startkey is/are unavailable.

PSF file (default): The license server(s) set in the Creo startkey are used.