

SolarWarranty Pro

Release Notes

What's new in this release

Version 2.3 — Production Release

April 2026

Computer Aided Business Systems

Lagos, Nigeria

Document Information

Property	Value
Document Version	2.3 April 2026
Product Version	SolarWarranty Pro v2.3
Audience	Customers, IT administrators, support engineers
Supersedes	v2.1 (April 2026). v2.2 was an internal-only milestone and never shipped.

1 Overview

SolarWarranty Pro v2.3 is the production release that completes the licensing-system upgrade and introduces in-application documentation access. The v2.3 release moves the licence-key cryptography from a shared HMAC secret to RSA-2048 digital signatures, replaces the typeable deactivation token with a signed token file, simplifies the activation form from five typed fields to a typed key plus a file selector, and adds a Help → Documentation submenu giving operators one-click access to the User Guide, Quick Start Guide, Setup Guide, Release Notes, and Training Manual.

All v2.1 functionality is preserved. Existing customer data, audit logs, manufacturer claims, inventory records, and dashboards are carried forward unchanged. The cryptographic upgrade is transparent at the data level — only the licence file format and the activation flow change.

IMPORTANT — Licence re-issue required. Every existing v2.1 customer requires a one-time replacement licence as part of the v2.3 upgrade. The v2.3 application will not accept v2.1 licence files. Replacement licences are provided free of charge through the existing Help → About → Deactivate Licence flow. See §7 below for the migration procedure.

2 Customer-Facing Changes

2.1 Simplified Licence Activation

The activation form has been redesigned. Customers no longer type the four metadata fields (LicenceType, CompanyName, Fingerprint, IssuedDate) that v2.1 required them to enter from the licence email. v2.3 reads those fields directly from a small file (.swpkey) the supplier sends alongside the typed licence key. The form now has two inputs:

- Licence Key — the SWPRO-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX value from the supplier email, unchanged from v2.1.
- Licence File (.swpkey) — a Browse button that lets the customer select the .swpkey file the supplier emailed as an attachment.

The Machine ID is still displayed at the top of the form and is still used to identify the customer machine to the supplier when requesting a perpetual licence.

Why this change? The five-field form was a major source of activation support tickets. Case-sensitive company names, dates with the wrong format, machine IDs with confused

O/O characters — all of these caused failed activations that were difficult to diagnose. The new form eliminates those error classes entirely. The customer types one value; the rest is read from the file.

2.2 Help Menu — Documentation Submenu

The Help menu has a new Documentation submenu containing five entries:

- User Guide — opens UserGuide.html in the operator's default browser.
- Quick Start Guide — opens QuickStart.pdf in the default PDF viewer.
- Setup Guide — opens SetupGuide.pdf in the default PDF viewer.
- Release Notes — opens ReleaseNotes.pdf in the default PDF viewer.
- Training Manual — opens TrainingManual.pdf in the default PDF viewer.

All five documents ship with the application installer at <install-folder>\docs\ and work fully offline. No internet connection is required. The existing About dialog and the Deactivate Licence flow remain in their current location.

NOTE The System Design Document is intentionally not bundled with the customer installer and is not exposed in the Documentation submenu. It contains supplier-side architecture detail (RSA private-key handling, internal audit-trail mechanics) that does not belong on customer machines. It is distributed separately to internal Computer Aided Business Systems staff and authorised resellers.

2.3 Deactivation Token Format

The deactivation token returned by the supplier is now delivered as a signed file (.swpdt) rather than a 29-character text string. Customers select the file with a Browse button on Stage 2 of the Deactivate Licence dialog instead of pasting the text token. This eliminates copy-paste errors and matches the symmetry of the .swpdr request file the customer generates in Stage 1.

3 Security Improvements

3.1 RSA-2048 Digital Signatures

Licence keys and deactivation tokens are now signed with the supplier's RSA-2048 private key. The corresponding public key is embedded in the application; the private key is held only on the supplier's licensing workstation and never ships with the product.

In v2.1, an attacker who decompiled the application could in principle extract the shared HMAC secret and generate forged licence keys for any company name and machine ID. v2.3 closes this vector: the public key embedded in the application can verify signatures but cannot create them. Forging a licence requires the private key, which is computationally infeasible to derive from the public key.

3.2 Tamper-Evident Storage

The on-disk licence.dat file is unchanged in its DPAPI encryption envelope but now carries the full RSA signature alongside the licence payload. On every application launch, SolarWarranty Pro re-verifies the signature against the embedded public key. Tampering with any field in

licence.dat — by hand-editing or otherwise — invalidates the signature and prevents the application from starting until a valid licence is re-installed.

3.3 No Functional Change for Customers

From a customer's perspective the only visible change in security is the simplified activation form (§2.1) and the file-based deactivation token (§2.3). Day-to-day operation, performance, and reliability are identical to v2.1.

4 Bug Fixes and Minor Improvements

- Database file location confirmed at C:\ProgramData\SolarWarrantyPro\SolarWarrantyPro.accdb. Earlier installs that placed the database in the Program Files folder are migrated automatically on first launch.
- Uninstaller no longer deletes the C:\ProgramData\SolarWarrantyPro\ folder. Customer data, claim media, and audit logs are preserved across reinstalls and upgrades. Removing customer data now requires a manual operation.
- Help menu structure standardised. The MainMenuStrip wiring bug that intermittently prevented the Help menu from appearing on small screens is resolved.
- Internal: codebase-wide qualification of System.Drawing.Color references to remove ambiguity with PdfSharp's XColor type. No customer-visible effect.

5 Compatibility

Component	Status
Operating System	Windows 10 / Windows 11 (64-bit OS, x86 application). Unchanged from v2.1.
.NET Framework	4.8 — unchanged from v2.1.
Microsoft Access Database Engine	2016 32-bit — unchanged. Bundled installer offered if missing.
SQL Server	2016 or later — unchanged.
Existing customer data	Fully preserved. No migration steps required.
Existing licence files	Replacement required. See §7.
Existing audit logs	Fully preserved.
Existing manufacturer claim PDFs	Fully preserved on disk in C:\ProgramData\SolarWarrantyPro\ClaimReports\.

6 Installer Signing and Verified Publisher

The v2.3 installer is digitally signed with an Extended Validation (EV) code-signing certificate. When a customer or IT administrator runs the installer for the first time, Windows SmartScreen presents the standard elevation prompt with a Verified Publisher line.

The Verified Publisher shown in the SmartScreen prompt is JD & Sons Audio Production, LLC — the United States legal entity that holds the SolarWarranty Pro code-signing certificate on behalf of Computer Aided Business Systems. Every screen inside the installer wizard, the application itself, and all support contact information continues to identify Computer Aided Business Systems as the publisher.

FOR IT ADMINISTRATORS If your organisation's software-installation policy or AppLocker rule set checks the Authenticode publisher, allow-list the certificate Subject "JD & Sons Audio Production, LLC". This is the legal entity on the cert and matches what SmartScreen, signtool /verify, and Get-AuthenticodeSignature will all return.

7 Migration from v2.1 to v2.3

The v2.3 upgrade is a hard cut: the new application will not accept v2.1 licence files. Every existing customer must request a free replacement licence as part of the upgrade. The migration is straightforward and uses the existing Deactivate Licence flow.

7.1 Migration Procedure (Customer)

1. Before upgrading: open SolarWarranty Pro v2.1 → Help → About → Deactivate Licence. Click Generate Request File and save the .swpdr file to your desktop.
2. Email the .swpdr file to support@solarwarrantypro.com. Include your company name and the Machine ID shown on the deactivation form.
3. You will receive a reply with two attachments: (a) a .swpdt deactivation token file and (b) a new .swpkey licence file for v2.3. Save both to your desktop.
4. Apply the .swpdt token: in v2.1, return to Help → About → Deactivate Licence and use Stage 2 to apply the token. The application will close.
5. Install SolarWarranty Pro v2.3 using the v2.3 installer. Existing data is preserved.
6. At first launch of v2.3, the Licence Activation form appears. Type the new licence key from your support email and Browse to the .swpkey file. Click Activate.
7. You will reach the login screen. All your existing users, products, claims, and other data are intact.

NOTE If you upgrade to v2.3 without first deactivating your v2.1 licence, the new application will detect the obsolete v2.1 licence file at first launch and prompt you to contact your supplier for a replacement. No data is lost. Your support team will issue the replacement licence based on the company name and Machine ID — the v2.1 licence is automatically marked as superseded in your supplier's records.

7.2 Migration Procedure (Supplier)

The supplier-side workflow uses the existing SWP_Keygen tool, which has been upgraded to v2.3 to sign licence keys with the RSA-2048 private key. The full procedure is documented in the System Design Document §6 (Licensing System).

- Receive the .swpdr request from the customer. Open SWP_Keygen → Process Deactivation Request and load the file. The signature is verified against the embedded public key.

- Click Generate Token File. The .swpdt file is auto-saved to %APPDATA%\SWP_Keygen\Issued\. Email it to the customer.
- Paste the customer's new Machine ID (typically the same machine for v2.3 migration). Click Generate Replacement Key. SWP_Keygen signs a new licence and writes the .swpkey file. The licence database row carries the audit trail of the replacement.
- Email the new licence key (visible) and the .swpkey file (attachment) to the customer.

8 Known Limitations

- The licence key + .swpkey file are bound together. Customers must use the .swpkey that was issued in the same email as the typed key — using a stale .swpkey from an earlier issue, or from a different machine, will fail validation with a clear error message.
- Perpetual licences remain machine-locked. Replacing a customer's computer requires a deactivation/re-issue cycle, the same as in v2.1.
- The Documentation submenu items rely on the customer's default browser (for the User Guide HTML) and default PDF viewer (for the four PDFs). On systems where no default handler is configured for one of these file types, the relevant menu item shows a message with the full path so the customer can open the file manually.

9 Roadmap

The v2.3 release closes out the licensing-system improvements. Planned future work — to be scoped in subsequent releases — includes:

- Context-sensitive help linking individual screens to specific User Guide sections.
- Cloud-hosted documentation for customers who prefer always-current online docs over the bundled HTML.
- Optional cloud-based licence activation (online verification) as an alternative to the current offline file-based flow, for customers who request it.
- Multi-language User Guide editions.

10 Support and Contact

For questions about this release or the migration procedure, contact:

Computer Aided Business Systems

Lagos, Nigeria

Email: support@solarwarrantypro.com

Web: <https://solarwarrantypro.com>

When contacting support, please include your SolarWarranty Pro version (visible in Help → About), your company name as registered, and a description of the issue. For migration support, attach the .swpdr file generated from your v2.1 installation.