

SolarWarranty Pro

Release Notes

What's new in this release

Version 2.4 — Production Release

June 2026

Computer Aided Business Systems

Lagos, Nigeria

Document Information

Property	Value
Document Version	2.4 June 2026
Product Version	SolarWarranty Pro v2.4
Audience	Customers, IT administrators, support engineers
Supersedes	v2.3 (April 2026). v2.3 remains supported; v2.4 is an in-place upgrade.

1 Overview

SolarWarranty Pro v2.4 is a production release focused on the data layer, application architecture, and licence-activation experience. The headline change is the move from the Microsoft Access database engine to an embedded SQLite database as the default backend, which removes the long-standing dependency on the Access Database Engine (ACE) redistributable and the 32-bit constraint that came with it. The application now runs as a native 64-bit process, and licence activation has been streamlined to a single paste-to-activate step backed by a self-service customer portal.

All v2.3 functionality is preserved. Existing customer data, audit logs, manufacturer claims, inventory records, and dashboards are carried forward unchanged. Customers running the SQL Server backend are unaffected by the SQLite change — SQL Server remains fully supported as the advanced multi-user option.

In-place upgrade, data preserved. v2.4 upgrades a v2.3 installation in place. Your existing database, whether Access or SQL Server, is detected and carried forward. Access databases are migrated to SQLite automatically on first launch (see §7). No licence re-issue is required for the upgrade itself, but the activation form has changed — see §2.1.

2 Customer-Facing Changes

2.1 Streamlined Licence Activation (Paste-to-Activate)

The activation form has been simplified again. In v2.3 the customer typed a licence key and selected a .swpkey file. In v2.4 the licence is delivered as a single signed text block that the customer pastes into one field. There is no separate file to browse for and no metadata to type.

The new activation form has a single input:

- **Licence Key** — paste the complete signed licence block supplied by Computer Aided Business Systems. The block carries all licence metadata (type, company, expiry, and the machine binding) inside a digitally signed payload.

The Machine ID for the current computer is still displayed at the top of the form. It is the value you provide to the supplier (or enter on the self-service portal) when requesting a perpetual licence or a transfer.

Why this change? The v2.3 two-part activation (typed key plus a .swpkey attachment) still produced support tickets when customers used a stale .swpkey, or the email stripped the attachment. A single pasted block removes the attachment entirely: there is one thing to copy, and it either verifies or it does not, with a clear message either way.

2.2 Manage Licence Online (replaces in-app Deactivation)

The in-application Deactivate Licence flow has been retired. Licence lifecycle operations — deactivation, transfer to a new machine, and account changes — are now handled through the customer self-service portal. The About dialog (Help → About) now shows a Manage Licence Online button that opens the portal in the default browser.

What happened to the .swpdr / .swpdt files? The file-based deactivation request and token exchange from v2.3 is no longer used. Customers who need to move a licence to a new machine now do so through the portal using their Machine ID, which is faster and does not require an email round-trip with the supplier. The portal address is shown in Help → About and at <https://solarwarrantypro.com>.

2.3 Help Menu — Documentation Submenu

The Help → Documentation submenu introduced in v2.3 is retained, providing one-click offline access to the User Guide (HTML), Quick Start Guide, Setup Guide, Release Notes, and Training Manual. All five documents ship with the installer at <install-folder>\docs\ and work without an internet connection.

Internal documentation. The System Design Document remains supplier-internal and is intentionally not bundled with the customer installer or exposed in the Documentation submenu.

3 Platform and Architecture Changes

3.1 SQLite Default Database (replaces Microsoft Access)

The default single-user backend is now an embedded SQLite database stored as a single file. This is the most significant change in v2.4 and it removes a class of installation problems that affected the Access backend:

- **No ACE redistributable.** The Microsoft Access Database Engine is no longer required. Installs no longer prompt for, bundle, or depend on the 32-bit ACE driver, which was a frequent first-launch failure point.
- **Single-file database.** All data lives in one file, SolarWarrantyPro.db, which is simpler to back up — copying that one file captures the entire dataset.
- **Better performance at volume.** The read paths used by Product Search and Manage Claims have been reworked around SQLite indexing and paging, so large datasets (tens of thousands of products and claims) load quickly.

The SQLite database is created automatically at C:\ProgramData\SolarWarrantyPro\SolarWarrantyPro.db on first launch.

3.2 64-bit Application

SolarWarranty Pro now runs as a native 64-bit (x64) process. The v2.3 application ran as a 32-bit (x86) process, in part because the bundled Access driver was 32-bit. With Access removed, that constraint is gone. The 64-bit build addresses more memory and aligns with current Windows deployments.

3.3 SQL Server Remains the Advanced Option

SQL Server is fully supported as the advanced backend for multi-user and networked deployments. Customers already running SQL Server are unaffected by the SQLite change and require no

migration. The choice of backend is made in the Setup Wizard and can be reconfigured later in Dealer Setup.

4 Security

4.1 Signed Licence Payloads

Licences continue to be protected by RSA digital signatures. The public key is embedded in the application and verifies the pasted licence block on activation and on every subsequent launch; the private key is held only on the supplier's licensing workstation and never ships with the product. Tampering with a stored licence invalidates the signature and prevents the application from starting until a valid licence is re-installed.

4.2 No Functional Change for Day-to-Day Users

From an operator's perspective the only visible licence-related changes are the single-field activation form (§2.1) and the Manage Licence Online button (§2.2). Routine operation, performance, and reliability are equivalent to v2.3 and, in the read-heavy screens, faster.

5 Bug Fixes and Minor Improvements

- **Manage Claims and Product Search performance.** Both screens now page results and use database indexes rather than loading entire tables into memory, eliminating the slowdown that appeared on large datasets.
- **First-launch reliability on standard-user accounts.** Removal of the Access driver dependency eliminates the ACE-related permission and bitness errors that some standard-user installs encountered at first launch.
- **Single-file backup.** The database is now one file, simplifying backup scripts and scheduled copies.
- **About dialog.** The About dialog now reads licence details from the active signed licence and offers Manage Licence Online in place of the retired Deactivate Licence flow.

6 Compatibility

Component	Status
Operating System	Windows 10 / Windows 11 (64-bit). The application now runs as a 64-bit process.
.NET Framework	4.8 — unchanged from v2.3.
Microsoft Access Database Engine	No longer required. The default backend is SQLite; ACE is not installed or bundled.
SQL Server	2016 or later — unchanged. Remains the advanced multi-user option.
Existing customer data (Access)	Migrated to SQLite automatically on first launch. See §7.
Existing customer data (SQL Server)	Fully preserved. No migration required.
Existing audit logs	Fully preserved.
Existing manufacturer claim PDFs	Fully preserved on disk in C:\ProgramData\SolarWarrantyPro\ClaimReports\.

7 Migration from v2.3 to v2.4

v2.4 is an in-place upgrade. The procedure differs depending on which backend the v2.3 installation used.

7.1 Access Backend → SQLite (automatic)

Most single-user v2.3 installations use the Access backend. On first launch after upgrading to v2.4, the application detects the existing Access database and migrates its contents into a new SQLite database. The original Access file is left untouched as a fallback.

1. Back up your data folder before upgrading. Copy C:\ProgramData\SolarWarrantyPro\ to a safe location.
2. Install SolarWarranty Pro v2.4 using the v2.4 installer. The existing data folder is preserved.
3. At first launch, paste your licence block into the activation form (see §2.1) if prompted, then allow the automatic Access → SQLite migration to complete. A summary confirms the row counts moved.
4. Verify your data: log in and confirm products, claims, customers, and reports appear as expected. The new SQLite database is SolarWarrantyPro.db in the same data folder.

The original Access file is retained. The migration reads from the Access database and writes a new SQLite file; it does not delete or modify the .accdb. If you ever need to confirm a value against the pre-migration data, the original file remains in the data folder.

7.2 SQL Server Backend (no migration)

If your v2.3 installation uses SQL Server, no database migration occurs. v2.4 connects to the same SQL Server database. Install v2.4, activate, and confirm the connection in Dealer Setup if prompted.

7.3 Licence Activation on Upgrade

The v2.4 activation form expects the single pasted licence block (§2.1). If you are upgrading and your licence is still valid, your supplier will provide the v2.4-format licence block. Paste it when the activation form appears. The Machine ID shown on the form is unchanged for the same computer, so perpetual licences remain bound to the same machine.

8 Known Limitations

- Perpetual licences remain machine-locked. Moving a licence to a new computer is now done through the self-service portal (Manage Licence Online) rather than the retired in-app deactivation flow.
- The automatic Access → SQLite migration assumes a standard v2.3 Access database. Heavily customised or externally-modified Access files should be migrated with supplier assistance; contact support before upgrading in that case.
- The Documentation submenu items rely on the default browser (for the User Guide HTML) and default PDF viewer. Where no default handler is configured, the menu item shows the file path so the document can be opened manually.

9 Roadmap

Planned future work, to be scoped in subsequent releases, includes:

- Context-sensitive help linking individual screens to specific User Guide sections.

- Optional cloud-based licence activation as an alternative to the offline paste-to-activate flow.
- Cloud-hosted documentation for customers who prefer always-current online docs.
- Multi-language User Guide editions.

10 Support and Contact

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

Computer Aided Business Systems

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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 upgrade support on an Access-backed installation, let us know so we can advise on the automatic migration.