

# New User Quick Start Guide

This **Quick Start Guide** for new users will get you up and running in **4 easy steps**. For a more detailed user journey, please see the [Getting Started Guide](#) and Software Potential [Tutorials](#)

The starting point for this Quick Start Guide assumes you have:

- Received your license key
- Used that key to create your account on the portal.

## STEP 1: SET UP YOUR DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENT

Setting up your Development Environment is straight forward; however it is best done by a software developer.

### 1. Create your Permutation

To get started, you need to generate a unique private permutation for your product. A permutation file contains a unique one-way transformation which, when loaded into the Code Protector, transforms the CIL of your assembly so that the protected assembly cannot be reversed engineered.

- a. Logon to the portal <https://srv.softwarepotential.com>
- b. Click **Accounts** → **Manage Permutations** → **Create Permutation**
- c. Enter a name for your permutation and click **OK**
- d. Eventually (click refresh) the status field will change from **Creation Pending** to **Done**.

### 2. Download Code Protector and Permutation

The permutation and the code protector tool need to be saved locally to your machine, where they are easy to find later.

- a. Logon to the portal <https://srv.softwarepotential.com>
- b. Click **Accounts** → **Manage Permutations** and select your permutation by clicking on the record in the table.
- c. Download the **Code Protector .msi** file and **Permutation** file from the **Downloads** column and save them locally.

### 3. Install Code Protector and Permutation

Locate Code Protector on your development machine and double click the .msi to initiate the install. Once installed:

- a. Logon using the same credentials as the portal
- b. Select **Permutations** → **Install Permutation**
- c. Browse to previously saved **Permutation** file and click **OK**

### 4. Extract Permutation Runtime Files

The Permutation Runtime Files are important for API usage and for the installation of Runtime components.

- a. Logon to Code Protector
- b. Select **Permutations** → **Extract Permutation Runtime Files**
- c. Select an **Output Directory** for the extracted DLLs and save.

Now your Development Environment is set up. The next step is to create products, features and SKUs in the portal.

## STEP 2: MANAGE PRODUCTS AND SKU'S

Once you have your Development Environment set up, you can start managing products and editions (SKU's) in the portal. **NOTE:** *This step can be done by the developer or a product manager / commercial manager.*

### 1. Creating Products

This is the process of creating and managing products, versions and editions of your software for the purpose of licensing. The first task is to define and describe your products to the licensing system.

- a. Logon to the portal <https://srv.softwarepotential.com>
- b. Click **Manage Products** → **Add/Edit a Product** and describe the product in terms of **Name**, **Version Number** and **Description**, then click **OK**.

### 2. Defining Features

You now define the *licensable features* for the product or edition you have created. (You can have as few as zero features - in this case the product is licensed as a whole).

- a. Logon to the portal <https://srv.softwarepotential.com>
- b. Click **Manage Products** and then highlight the **Product-Version** from the list of names provided.
- c. Click **Edit** and enter a feature name and description. Click **+** and repeat as required until all required features have been defined.

### 3. Creating SKUs

SKUs are editions of your software – i.e. packages created for the purpose of sale and distribution. SKUs have features, entitlements and limitations associated with them e.g. Trial, Standard, Professional etc.

To create a SKU:

- a. Logon to the portal <https://srv.softwarepotential.com>
- b. Click on **Manage SKU** which will automatically default to the **Create a new SKU** page
- c. Define your SKU according to your business requirements.

A SKU serves as a template from which one can subsequently generate licenses. For more information on SKUs and the parameters you can set for a SKU, check the [Getting Started Guide](#).

You have now created products, features and SKUs. The next step is to protect and license your software.

# New User

## Quick Start Guide (Continued)

### STEP 3: SOFTWARE LICENSING AND PROTECTION

The Software Potential service allows you to generate, activate and manage licenses to your software in the marketplace – both from pre-defined SKUs and ad hoc license generation “on demand”.

Code Protection is an integral part of the service (albeit not mandatory) and allows you to protect your app against reverse engineering & the threat of misuse.

NOTE: If you are a trial user, use the demo app [Software Potential Tutorial for C# \(or Native C++\)](#)

#### 1. Protecting your Code

- a. Logon locally to Code Protector using the same credentials as the Software Potential portal
- b. Select **Project** tab and in the right hand settings panel use the following default settings:
  - c. **Permutation** → previously installed permutation
    - **Target SLP Runtime Variant** → Standard
    - **Product Name** → <ProductName>
    - **Output Directory** → you can set your own directory if default is not appropriate.
- d. Select **Add Modules** to add one or more application assemblies to be protected.
- e. For each assembly expand the structure tree and tick the methods that need protection. For each method selected associate it with a product feature via the **Unlocking Feature** drop down in the right hand pane.
- f. Click **Protect** and check progress in the message pane.

You can find the protected code in your defined output directory or by default in the “Debug.Protected” or “Release.Protected” folder.

#### 2. Creating Licenses (from a SKU)

- a. Logon to the portal <https://srv.softwarepotential.com>
- b. Click **Manage SKU** → **Create License from a SKU** and then click **Create License** for the corresponding SKU
- c. Click **Next** to confirm your selection, enter the **Number of Licenses, Description, Customer Name** (or select the customer from the list) and click **Create Licenses**.

#### 3. Creating Licenses (Ad Hoc Licenses)

- a. Logon to the portal <https://srv.softwarepotential.com>
- b. Click **Manage Licenses** and then within this page you can define the license parameters as required.
- c. Click **Issue License**.

#### 4. Activating Licenses

License generation and activation are separate processes. If you attempt to run the protected application without a license, the Activation Wizard will prompt the user to enter an activation key. There are 2 activation options, Online or Manual, depending on whether the target machine is directly connected to the Internet or not.

#### STEP 4: MOVING ON

To help you to move from a trial to live environment, here are some advanced scenarios & tips to get your app ready.

#### Advanced Licensing Scenarios

1. **Time limited licenses:** These are particular helpful for “Try before you Buy” situations. Set as a Non-Commercial license and set “Expiration Days” to a number (e.g. 30) and the licenses will expire after that time period.
2. **Upgrades:** When the customer decides to upgrade:
  - Issue a commercial license to overwrite non-commercial ones automatically OR
  - Re-issue the trial license but make it a commercial license. The customer just re-activates the trial key.
3. **Renewable licenses:** If your customer pays on a subscription basis and you want auto-renewing licenses that simply check if they qualify for renewal. Licenses can be disabled at any time.

#### Tips for a Production Environment

There are some additional steps one should take when using Software Potential in a production environment:

1. Integrate code protection into the Visual Studio build process – [InishTech Support KB12](#). No need to load assembly into Code Protector and licensing is applied automatically during build.
2. Code protection declarative attributes – [InishTech Support KB13](#). Combine with KB12 and no need to tick methods for protection/licensing in Code Protector UI.
3. Wrap SP Agent components installation into app installer – [InishTech Support KB7](#). When the end customer installs your app, the SP Agent will be installed as well.
4. **Activation Dialog customization.** Activation dialog can be localized and you can create a custom Activation Wizard.
5. **Licensing and Web Service APIs** – With the Runtime API you can access the core runtime licensing functionality directly from your application code; with the Web APIs one can introduce licensing functionality into other IT systems.