

# **Abraquest: Getting Started**

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# **Abraquest: Getting Started**

**User Guide** 

by Spherical Software Limited

### Abraquest: Getting Started

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# Foreword



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### 1 Introduction

Welcome to the Abraquest Getting Started Guide.



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www.abraquest.co.uk www.sphericalsoftware.com

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#### **1.1** About this Document

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This document contains information on how to set up Abraquest.

It is aimed at those who have purchased Abraquest and are installing it up for the first time. If you have not purchased, please refer to the Abraquest Trial Getting Started Guide.

Please note: some of the screen prints may be slightly out of date when viewed in this document, although we should have made the important changes with each release of the software. If in doubt, contact us at support@abraquest.co.uk. If this document or the software needs making clearer, we are always happy to oblige and include suggestions in a future Abraquest release.

#### 1.2 How Abraquest Works

Abraquest is database software that stores information on every book in your library including every single time a book is borrowed or returned.

In order to do this we provide you with school barcodes to stick on the inside cover or back of each book to supplement the ISBN barcode on each book. This gives each of your books a unique number within your school.

When setting up the system for real, at system set up time each book is scanned into the system using a process called "Add Books" and is essential unless you we are copying the data from another library system.

Whenever a book is removed from the school premises it is "Issued" and when it comes back, it is "Returned" by scanning the book barcode.

N.B. If you are looking at the trial software, there is a "demo" database with approx 4000 fictitious books so there is no need to add books to get Abraquest to work in this case.



#### 2 **Installing Abraquest**

If you are installing a trial, you will have requested the trial via the home page at www.abraquest.co.uk

If you have purchased, the appropriate link will have been emailed to you together with licence details and username and password details for Abraquest Online.

When downloading you may get a warning message saying that the software is signed by Spherical Software Limited. This is normal.

To install Abraquest on your PC, you need permission to install software from your IT department. If any problems occur during the following few steps, please refer to the next section.

Once you have downloaded, you should unzip and then run the downloaded file and the first page of Abraquest Setup will appear:

Ҏ Abraquest 2.4.0 Setup: Installat	ion Options	- • •
Check the components you you don't want to install. Cli		the components
Select components to install:	Abraquest (required)  Start Menu Shortcuts  Desktop Shortcut	
Space required: 45.7MB		
Cancel Nullsoft Install Sy:	stem v3.0b1	Next >

Abraquest Setup Page 1

Press Next.

🖞 Abraquest 2.4.0 Setup: Installation Folder 📃 🖃 💽
Setup will install Abraquest 2.4.0 in the following folder. To install in a different folder, click Browse and select another folder. Click Install to start the installation.
Destination Folder
C:\Program Files\SphericalSoftware\Abraquest Browse
Space required: 45.7MB
Space available: 150.0GB
Cancel Nullsoft Install System v3.0b1 < Back Install

**Abraquest Setup Page 2** 

🖞 Abraquest 2.4	.0 Setup: Completed		
Completer	d		
Show <u>d</u> etails			
Cancel	Nullsoft Install System v3.0b1	< <u>B</u> ack	Close

Press Install. The final setup page appears:

Abraquest Setup Page 3

Abraquest is now installed and will have put an icon on your desktop and is ready to use.

#### 2.1 Run Abraquest for the First Time

The first time you run Abraquest it will prompt you for a licence key.

99 Welcome to Abraquest	×
Thank you for evaluating Abraquest. To continue your evaluation please click the "Continue Evaluation" button.	
You are on day 1 of your 14 day evaluation	
Install License Continue Evaluation Exit	

Install licence dialog

If you have a licence key, you should click Install Licence:

룱 Install Abraquest Lic	rense	×
	enter the license key you received on purchasing the product and click the Inst buttons can be used to save/restore the installed license to a file for backup.	all button. The
License Key	I	Install
License Status	No License Installed	
Computer ID	JSD10-104	
Load License Sav	e License Uninstall License	Close

Install licence 2 dialog

Enter the licence key provided and click Install. Abraquest is now licenced.

N.B. In the event of any problems at this stage please email support@abraquest.co.uk

#### 2.2 **Problems During Install?**

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In the event of your not being able to install software from the Windows user that is using the library PC, you should call your IT support.

The most likely problem is not having permissions to install Abraquest from the Windows user you are currently using, but IT should be able to diagnose with the help of our support if required.

Please feel free to email support@abraquest.co.uk for advice, this might save you time, but we still may have to call IT.



### 3 Removing the Demo Database

When first installed, Abraquest is installed with a demo database with 4000 books in it to allow trial users to see the features of Abraquest.

You must remove this before starting using Abraquest otherwise your data will be mixed up with the demo data.

To do this, do the following:

Login to Abraquest using username sysadmin1, password sysadmin1

Click the Demo menu at the top to open the demo menu as follows:



Choose "Remove Demo Data..." (the ... means there is a further form coming up). The following appears:

Remove Demo Data	? 🗙
Use this option to stop using the demo da with an empty database ready for ac	atabase and start using Abraquest Iding books from your library.
Cancel	Remove demo data

Remove Demo Data Dialog

Click **Remove demo data** to remove the demo data and leave Abraquest with an empty database, otherwise click **cancel**.

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## 4 Next Steps

Please read on to find out how to enter Abraquest Online information and then continue on with the setup of Abraquest.



#### 4.1 Entering Abraquest Online Information

Login as sysadmin1, password sysadmin1 and go to the Base Data Menu:



Base Data Menu

Choose Configuration Options. The following appears:

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<u>F</u> ile <u>E</u> dit						Curre	nt Teacher: sys	admin1 L	ogout D	emo <u>W</u> ir	dow	<u>H</u> elp
Main Menu	џ	Ma	intenance Menu	Base Data M	enu Base Data: Co	onfig Op	ptions					>
	· ·		Barcode Options			Abr	aquest Online U	lsername / I	Password			
AbraQu	oot		Max Length	3	Allow Alphas? Username							
Abragu	est		Zeros Length	6		Pa	ssword					
			Edit Mask						Test			
Teacher Menu	^		- Additional Option	1S		-						
Frankline Manua			General Opt	ional Features	Optional Book Col	umns	Notes/Labels	Unatte	nded Issue	/Returns	Libra	• •
Enquiries Menu Reports Menu			Database Versi	on	3.0.0.0	Year	End Option			t		
			Is Demo Databa	ase?	🖌 (tick if Yes)				🔿 Year B	End		
Admin Menu	^		Borrow Days		7			Both				
Maintenance Menu			Return on Cert	ain Day?	(tick if Yes)	Defa	Default Books Allowed 2					
<u>Base Data Menu</u> Stock Control Menu			Day to Return		Friday 🗸							
			Lost Books Fixe	d Price	(tick if Yes)	- Ab	raquest Automa	ted Backup				
Licencing	~		Lost Books Price	e		] Bad	kup on Exit?		(tick i	f Yes)		
Backup/Restore	^		Use Checklists?		✔ (tick if Yes)	Yea	rs to Save				1	L v
Backup / Restore Menu			Abraquest Onlin	e Information								
			Customer Name			Abraquest Online Expiry						
		Config Options	Software Assurar Customer Since	nce				re Assuranc Backup Expi				
		figo	Last Updated By									
		Cor	Last Updated		14/08/2019 11:41		Updated By		sysa	dmin 1		
Z										Close E <u>x</u> it	Appli	cation

**Configuration Options** 

Press Edit and enter your username and password provided into the top right hand corner of the screen.

Once you have entered these, press Save.

You can then press the **Test** button which should result in the customer name and other information in the Abraquest Online Information section of the page showing.

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### 4.2 **Problems with Abraquest Online?**

If you have any messages during the "Test" phase, it could be that your school firewall needs opening up to allow Abraquest to connect.

Its likely you will have to call your IT, but please email support@abraquest.co.uk for further help in this respect.

#### 4.3 Getting Started

You either now have to review the conversion we have done from your old library system, or you have the task of entering books.

You also have the task of entering pupil names, which, if you have a system such as SIMS, you can export an Excel spreadsheet from this system and import it into Abraquest.

First though, you should run the Abraquest Setup Wizard, and review the questions within there.

You can refer to the Abraquest User Guide for details on how to do all of this or you can email support@abraquest.co.uk for a personalised consultation on next steps. We can do this online via Zoom or via email or telephone as you prefer.



### 5 Further Information

Please remember we are always here to help if you have any questions.

The software author welcomes all feedback and suggestions, we are available via the following contact details:

Web: www.abraquest.co.uk

Tel: 0800 133 7410

Email: support@abraquest.co.uk

Spherical Support website: https://help.sphericalsoftware.com

If you would like guidance on how to install on a network, check your firewall settings, move Abraquest to another PC, this and many more questions are available on the support website.

#### 5.1 Abraquest Admin Install

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If your network requires IT to install Abraquest, then this page explains the steps usually required. Any questions, please email support@abraquest.co.uk for further advice.

Step 1: Log in as administrator (or a suitable Windows user capable of installing programs).

Step 2: Download and install the Abraquest 30 day trial.

Step 3: If you have a licence key, then install it now.

Step 4: Review Settings in c:\program files\spherical software\abraquest\db\schoollibraryconfig.xml. If you are considering moving the Abraquest database elsewhere this is the file you need to update. Step 5: Log in as the usual librarian windows login.

Step 6: Ensure Abraquest Runs without the Run as Administrator.

Step 7: If Abraquest won't run without Run as Administrator, and this is a problem, e.g. Windows asks if the user wants to change the PC when running Abraquest please contact support@abraquest.co.uk.

In the event of any problems, you may have to re-enter the licence key again (which probably means calling our support to allow this), or more likely checking file permissions on the database, security and / or the licence file (Which will come up as part of the error message if this is the problem). The Windows user for the library must have write access on the database and the licence file in order for Abraquest to work correctly.

Once these are set up on a PC, then they are unlike to change. If run as administrator is set, then whoever installs updates must be aware so that this can be rechecked when new updates are installed. However as related. Run as Administrator isn't necessary for Abraquest after the initial run/ licence key setup.

Finally, if the library user cannot install software the ManualUpdateCheck option needs setting in SchoolLibraryConfig.xml. This file can be copied between library PC's (if you have more than one).

#### 5.1.1 SchoolLibraryConfig.xml

This file is the school library configuration file and it lives in c:\program files\spherical software \abraquest\db

It contains certain settings to tell Abraquest where its database is, etc., as detailed below.

Please note: this help page and this file is for IT administrators. If you are a library user, you probably don't need to worry about it! Please email support@abraquest.co.uk if you have any queries.

This file is in XML format which is a format only IT professionals and other strange people understand. You have to be weird to know how to update this file, and a single spelling mistake can stop Abraquest from working until the spelling is corrected, so if you do not, you probably need to email support@abraquest.co.uk for further advice.

It contains the following keys, some of which may not be in every file:

Key DatabaseName	Notes Full path to the database, don't forget the \\ (or better still, map a drive) if its on a network
WorkgroupName	Full path to the workgroup file, don't forget the \\ as per above
DefaultBackupDir	If you are not using Abraquest Automated Backup and require the user to do daily backups (i.e. the network doesn't automatically do it), then enter the full path of the folder to use as a backup directory. Don't forget the library user needs write access to this folder.
DefaultUserId, DefaultPassword	Please leave as default for now.
AbraquestOnlineEnabled	Should be true, only set to false for schools that don't have access to the internet.
AutomaticUpdateCheckEnabled	True to allow updates, false just for a message to tell IT to install an update.
AccessCheckerEnabled	Leave as true, this checks that Abraquest has permission to write to its database on startup.
ManualUpdateInstallation	Normally false (in lower case). Set to true if the library user cannot install software updates (due to network restrictions or other reasons).
BackupQuestionEnabled	If you want to disable the backup question when Abraquest exits, ensure this key is added and contains false in lower case as the value.
DisableSupportEmails	Set to true if your network doesn't allow emails to be sent from the library PC.

There are a number of other valid values not documented here which are used in support scenarios. Please do not delete any that you may see in this file without contacting support@abraquest.co.uk first. You are welcome to take a copy of it and install it on any PC's in your network that require Abraquest, or for circumstances e.g. when you upgrade to a new version of Windows.

Most of these options can be maintained from the Abraquest system itself, by logging in as sysadmin1, and choosing Configuration options on the Base Data menu:

Main Menu       a         Maintenance Menu       Base Data Menu       Base Data: Config Options         Maraquest Online Username / Password       Max Length       6         Max Length       6       Allow Alphas?       Username         Teacher Menu       Additional Options       Test         Additional Options       Additional Options       Test         Additional Options       Notes/Labels       Unattended Issue/Returns       Library Service       SchooLibraryConfig.xml         Database Name       C: [program files [Spherical Software]abraquest]db [SchoolLibraryConfig.xml       Database Name       C: [program files [Spherical Software]abraquest]db [SchoolLibraryConfig.xml         Maintenance Menu       Abraquest Online Enabled?       (tick if Yes)       Disable Support Emails?       Image: C: [program files [Spherical Software]abraquest]db [Schuric]         Maintenance Menu       Abraquest Online Enabled?       (tick if Yes)       Disable Support Emails?       Image: C: [program files [Spherical Software]abraquest]db [Schuric]         Backup/Restore       Abraquest Online Enabled?       (tick if Yes)       Disable Support Emails?       Image: C: [program files [Spherical Software]abraquest]db [Schuric]         Backup / Restore Menu       Abraquest Online Enabled?       (tick if Yes)       Backup Question Enabled?       (tick if Yes)       Backup Question Enabled?       (ti	<u>W</u> indow <u>H</u> e	er:sysadmin1 Logout Demo	Current Teach				<u>F</u> ile <u>E</u> dit
Image: Default of the second of the secon			a: Config Options	Data Menu Bas	aintenance Menu B	л	Main Menu
Abraquest Online Enabled?       Cibrary Service       Schware labraquest (db l/SchoolLibraryConfig.xml         Teacher Menu       Additional Options       Notes/Labels       Unattended Issue/Returns       Library Service       SchoolLibraryConfig.xml         Admin Menu       Admin Menu       Database Name       c:\program files\Spherical Software\labraquest\db\SchoolLib         Maintenance Menu       Default Backup Dir.       c:\program files\Spherical Software\labraquest\db\Backups         Base Data Menu       Abraquest Online Enabled?       (tick if Yes)       Disable Support Emails?         Licencing       Manual Update Installation?       (tick if Yes)       Backup /Restore         Backup /Restore       Abraquest Online Information       Abraquest Online Information         Customer Name       Abraquest Online Backup Expiry       Software Assurance Expiry         Outes Outer Since       Online Backup Expiry       Software Assurance		nline Username / Password	Abraquest (		Barcode Options		
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Enquiries Menu Reports Menu Admin Menu Maintenance Menu <u>Base Data Menu</u> Stock Control Menu Licencing Backup/Restore Backup/Restore Backup/Restore Menu Backup/Restore Menu Customer Name Customer Name Customer Since Customer Sin					- Additional Options	~	Teacher Menu
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Base Data Menu         Stock Control Menu         Licencing         Licencing         Backup/Restore         Backup / Restore Menu         Abraquest Online Information         Customer Name         Software Assurance         Software Assurance         Customer Since         Online Backup Expiry		oftware\abraquest\db\Backups	gram files\Spherical :		Default Backup D	^	Admin Menu
Stock Control Menu       Automatic Update Check Enabled?       (tick if Yes)         Jicencing       Access Checker Enabled?       (tick if Yes)         Backup/Restore       Backup Question Enabled?       (tick if Yes)         Backup / Restore Menu       Abraquest Online Information       Abraquest Online Enformation         Software Assurance       Software Assurance       Software Assurance Expiry         Online Backup Expiry       Last Updated By       Online Backup Expiry	(tick if Yes)	Support Emails?			Abraquest Online		
Licencing  Manual Update Installation? (tick if Yes) Backup/Restore Backup / Restore Menu Abraquest Online Information Customer Name Abraquest Online Expiry Software Assurance Customer Since Online Backup Expiry Last Updated By			k if Yes)	eck Enabled?	Automatic Updat		
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Software Assurance Customer Since Online Backup Expiry				nation	<ul> <li>Abraquest Online Ir</li> </ul>		
Customer Since Online Backup Expiry					Customer Name		
Last Updated By Last Updated 14/08/2019 11:41 Updated By sysadmi						suo	
Last Updated By Last Updated 14/08/2019 11:41 Updated By sysadmi		unine Backup Expiry				Optio	
Updated 14/08/2019 11:41 Updated By sysadmi						Dufig	
	1	ed By sysadmin1	Updat	14/08/2019	Last Updated	Ö	
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Base Data -> Configuration Options -> SchoolLibraryConfig.xml tab

