IENERGY AUSTRALIA

Portable Installation Guide

iPool Suite 1.0.0

Step-by-step instructions for extracting and running the portable version of iPool Suite, including where settings and data are kept, configuration and licensing notes.

Overview

The portable version is supplied as a zip file, `iPool-Portable.zip`. It does not use the installer: extract the zip to a folder and run iPool Suite from there. Settings, logs and other app data are kept inside that folder instead of in your Windows user profile. Sample data is a separate download, `iPool-Portable-SampleData.zip`.

How to Install

1. **Extract the portable package.** Use Windows File Explorer or your preferred archive utility to unzip `iPool-Portable.zip` into a folder you can write to, for example `D:\iPool-Portable` or a USB drive. Do not extract it into `C:\Program Files` or another read-only folder. The extracted folder contains an `iPool` folder (the program) and `README-Portable.txt`.
2. **Keep the extracted files together.** Do not move files out of the `iPool` folder. In particular, do not delete or rename `iPool\iPool-portable.ini`: that file is what makes this copy portable. Without it, iPool Suite behaves like an installed copy and keeps its settings in your Windows user profile.
3. **Launch iPool Suite.** Run `iPool\iPoolSuite.exe`. If your organization has specific folder or access requirements, follow your administrator's guidance.
4. **Optional: sample data.** Extract `iPool-Portable-SampleData.zip` into `C:\iEnergy`, so that you get `C:\iEnergy\WorkingFolder`.

> **Existing data**
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> Extracting over an existing `C:\iEnergy\WorkingFolder` replaces files with the same names. Back up that folder first.

> **Before you start**
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> - Confirm that the package has finished extracting before launching the application.
> - Keep a copy of the original downloaded zip until you have confirmed that the portable version runs correctly.

Portable Version: Important Differences

1. **Where your settings are kept.** Settings, session data, logs and crash reports are kept in a `UserData` folder inside the portable folder, next to the `iPool` folder. It is created the first time iPool Suite starts. Nothing is written to `%APPDATA%\iPool`. If the portable folder is not writable, iPool Suite shows an error and closes instead of saving its settings somewhere else.

2. **Defaults.csv.** Like the installed version, the portable version reads its folder and database settings from `C:\IENERGY\Defaults.csv`. The engines read the same file. It never overwrites an existing `Defaults.csv`.

   - If no `Defaults.csv` is found, iPool Suite shows *"No Defaults.csv was found on this PC."* and offers to create `C:\IENERGY\Defaults.csv`. If you extracted the sample data, it copies the sample's `Defaults.csv`; otherwise it uses a built-in template with folders under `C:\iEnergy\WorkingFolder`. Choose **Create Defaults.csv**, **Not now** (asked again at the next start) or **Don't ask again**.
   - If you decline, iPool Suite runs without a `Defaults.csv`, as on a new computer. You can set the folders later with the **Directory Initializer** in **Scenario Studio**.
   - If iPool Suite is also installed on this computer, both copies use the same `C:\IENERGY\Defaults.csv`. A folder change made in either copy applies to both.

   > **Folder names**
   >
   > Do not put the portable folder in a path that contains a comma (for example `D:\Tools,Old\iPool-Portable`): `Defaults.csv` cannot hold such a path, so the file cannot be created. If you move the portable folder after `Defaults.csv` was created, the `DirMain` line still points to the old location and is not changed automatically; edit it by hand if needed.

3. **iPool.ini setting.** An installed iPool Suite can also find `Defaults.csv` through an `iPool.ini` file (`C:\ProgramData\iPool\iPool.ini`). The portable version only reads it if you choose so, in **Settings → Portable** (this section is shown only in a portable copy):
   - **Ignore iPool.ini** (default): no `iPool.ini` is read.
   - **Use the installed iPool's iPool.ini**: finds `Defaults.csv` exactly as the installed version does.
   - **Use this file:** an `iPool.ini` you choose with **Browse…**. A file inside the portable folder keeps working after you move the folder or the drive letter changes.

   `C:\IENERGY\Defaults.csv` always comes first; `iPool.ini` is only used when that file is not there, and it is only read, never changed. A change takes effect after you restart iPool Suite (Settings offers **Restart now**).
4. **Licensing.** The license works the same way as in the installed version. A license already activated on this computer is found and used. You can also license the portable version through the normal licensing process in iPool Suite. If licensing through iPool Suite is restricted by administrator permissions, place the machine-specific `.lic` license file in the `iPool` folder, next to `iPoolSuite.exe`, then launch the application again.
5. **Not kept in the portable folder.** These stay where the installed version keeps them:
   - `C:\IENERGY\Defaults.csv` and the working folders it points to;
   - the Historical Store (`C:\iEnergy\Historical Store` by default, or the folder chosen in **Settings → Historical Store**), shared with an installed copy;
   - the default Downloads folder, Windows temporary files and the default folders of open/save dialogs.

   The portable version does not register file associations. A portable copy and an installed copy can run on the same computer.

Quick Checklist

- [ ] `iPool-Portable.zip` has been extracted to a writable folder whose path has no comma.
- [ ] `iPool\iPool-portable.ini` is still in place, and iPool Suite is started with `iPool\iPoolSuite.exe`.
- [ ] `Defaults.csv` is available in `C:\IENERGY`, or was created from the offer at first start.
- [ ] If needed, the `iPool.ini` option in **Settings → Portable** has been set and iPool Suite restarted.
- [ ] Licensing has been completed using the normal process or the `.lic`-file alternative where administrator restrictions apply.

Support

If you encounter issues extracting, launching, configuring, or licensing the portable version, contact iEnergy support.

Email: **support@ienergyglobal.com.au**