RPM Tips & Tricks:
AuctionRPM - Using Windows 10 / 8 / 7, Vista, and XP Computers Together

AuctionRPM is designed to run on any computer with the following operating systems: Windows 10/8/7/ Vista, and XP.

With AuctionRPM, there is one 'Main' computer. This computer holds the AuctionRPM database in a shared folder. Every other computer is known as a 'Satellite' – they are networked to the 'Main' computer and, as such, have instant access to the 'main' database. In this manner, AuctionRPM becomes an instantaneous source of the latest data possible. There is never a wait between bid entry, cashiering and payment of consignors.

AuctionRPM strongly recommends hard-wired network connections, guaranteeing the fastest, most reliable network connections possible. Even if working OK at home or office under ideal conditions, wireless connections may or may not be as reliable under actual auction house conditions, with potentially both physical and environmental changes as seen during the auction. Plus, the computer may 'lag' in receiving responses from the main computer. That being said, wireless networking may also work OK. Please be aware of any performance issues.

If you are planning to purchase new computers:

As of this writing, the new computer will have Windows 10 installed.

Current microprocessors from Intel are marked as I3, I5, and I7. The larger the number, the faster the processor. For satellite computers, almost any processor would most likely work (but see last paragraph, below). If planning to have several satellites connected to the 'Main' computer (that holds the AuctionRPM database), then a faster 'main' processor (and additional RAM memory) will be of value.

For the Main computer, for the fastest and best possible user experience (that is YOU), an I7 with 12GB memory or more will give exceptional results. Even the I7 class of processor has various amounts of speed. For very large RPM implementation, choose a higher-end I7 and additional memory (24GB or more).

For smaller installations, I7 will obviously give the best results. An I5 with 8GB of RAM will probably fill the bill. For single users, a minimum of an I5 processor is recommended.

When RPM customers are merely entering inventory or consignors, for example, the computer is basically idling, and the input will be successful, regardless of the processor. However, in an auction situation, when one computer is being used for bid entries, one for bidder registration and one more for invoicing, the Main computer must have enough power to process all the incoming and outgoing information without wincing or looking sluggish. That is why the Main computer needs the 'extra horsepower'. Satellite computers do not need so much processing power. That being said, an I5 with 8GB RAM is more than sufficient for the satellites.

Setting up Windows 10 / 8 / 7 / Vista / XP for use with AuctionRPM

Note: **Perform only those computer modifications that you are qualified to perform. Neither AuctionRPM nor Symmetric Software is responsible for any problems that may result from any computer modifications. If in doubt, hire a trained professional or call AuctionRPM for help. 'Uncle Charlie', who merely has a computer, is NOT professional help.**

First, assure that:

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- AuctionRPM has been installed on each computer, and that
- AuctionRPM's registration code has been entered.
- All computers can access each other on your network (file access instructions are found below).
- The network has been properly assembled.
- All computers are members of the same named workgroup.
- All computer(s) are updated to the latest Microsoft update. If the computer is not already configured to automatically update, click on 'start – control panel – windows update', and be taken to Microsoft's update website. There may be multiple updates to be installed, so do not assume that only a single update is all that is required.

Use the following guide to finish the project…

1) **Windows 10 / 8 / 7 and Vista – Both Main and Satellites: Set up Network and Sharing options:**

   In 'Control Panel - Network and Internet – Network and Sharing Center', click on 'Change advanced sharing settings' (Windows 10), 'Choose Homegroup and Sharing Options – Change advanced sharing settings' (Windows 7), or the option itself (Vista):

   Network Discovery - 'Turn on network discovery'
   File and Printer Sharing - 'Turn on file and printer sharing'
   Public Folder Sharing - 'Turn on public file sharing so anyone with network access can read and write files'
   File Sharing Connections –
   a. For combinations of Windows 7, Vista, and XP computers:
   'Enable file sharing for devices that use 40- and 56- bit encryption'
   b. For combinations of Windows 10 / 8 / 7 computers:
   'Use 128-bit encryption to help protect file sharing connections (recommended)'
   Homegroup Connections –
   a. For combinations of Windows 7, Vista, and XP computers:
   'Use user accounts and passwords to connect to other computers'
   b. For combinations of Windows 7, Windows 8, and Windows 10 computers:
   'Allow Windows to manage homegroup connections (recommended)'
   Password Protected Sharing - 'Turn off password protected sharing'

   Note: On Windows 10 computers, Advanced Sharing Options are broken up into 3 groups: 'Private', 'Guest or Public', and 'All Networks'. Be sure to drop down each of these groups and make the appropriate selections as stated above.

2) **Windows 7 only – For both Main and Satellites: Add registry entry to allow communication with Windows Vista and Windows XP computers**

   Using a Registry Editor, enter the following (if the key does not already exist. If it exists, leave the setting as-is)…
   Add to 'hkey-local-machine – system – currentcontrolset – control – lsa': add a DWORD named 'LmCompatibilityLevel'.
   Set to '1'.

3) **On the 'Main' computer only - Share the 'RPM_Data' folder and set access permissions**

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3a) Windows 10 / 8 / 7 and Vista:

- Access the c:\RPM_Data folder. Right-click the folder. Choose 'Properties – Sharing - Advanced – share this folder - Apply'. Then, 'Permissions – everyone – Full Control – OK – OK - Close' (add new everyone user if needed).

- Access the c:\RPM_Data folder. Right-click the folder. Choose 'Properties – Security'. Check to see if user 'everyone' exists <u>and</u> has 'Full Control'. If user 'everyone' does not exist, click 'Edit', 'Add'. In the 'Enter the object names…' box, type 'everyone' – then click 'check names'. The user name will become underlined. Click 'OK'.

  In the 'Permissions for RPM_Data' screen, click to highlight the 'everyone' user, then click on 'Full Control'. All checkboxes below will become checked. Click 'Apply'. Repeat for all other users in the 'Group or User Name' box. This gives all users full control of the files in the RPM_Data folder. Click 'OK' to exit.

3b) Windows XP:

Access the c:\RPM_Data folder. Use 'Properties – Share this folder – RPM_Data – Allow others to change'.

4) **On the 'Satellite' computers only - Set access permissions**

   4a) Windows 10 / 8 / 7 and Vista:

   From the Windows Explorer, access 'Network – Workgroup Name - Main computer – RPM_Data folder'. Right-click the RPM_Data folder. Click on 'Properties'. Assure that user 'Everyone' has Full Control.

5) **Point all computers to the Main computer's AuctionRPM.mdb, located in Main computer's 'RPM_Data' folder.**

   5a) Main computer: No repointing necessary – Default AuctionRPM database is located at c:\RPM_Data\AuctionRPM.mdb.

   5b) Satellite computers:

- Start AuctionRPM. Click on 'Tools – Advanced – Select Active Database'.

a. For combinations of Windows Vista and XP computers:

- On screen-left, click on 'Network' or 'My Network Places'.
- In the large box, click (even if the actual path is seen in the large box) 'Entire Network', 'Microsoft Windows Network', Workgroup name – Main computer name – 'RPM_Data' – 'AuctionRPM.mdb' (click AuctionRPM.mdb twice to select it).

b. For combinations of Windows 10, Windows 8, and Windows 7 computers:

- On the left side of the dialog box, click on 'Network' (you may have to scroll down the left side to find it).

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In the large box, click on the Main computer's name, then on folder 'RPM_Data', then on 'AuctionRPM.mdb' (click AuctionRPM.mdb twice to select it).

Note: If the Main computer does not show in the satellite computer's 'Network' list, return to Step 1, above. Assure that all computers are properly configured, and that WITHOUT AuctionRPM running, you can find the Main computer and AuctionRPM folder and database using 'Windows Explorer' ('File Explorer' in Windows 10 and 8).

- Click 'Yes to save the setting. AuctionRPM will restart shortly.
- To check your work, click on 'Help – About'. Note the database path. If incorrect, re-point to the correct database.

6) **Windows Firewall**

If Windows Firewall asks for permission to allow AuctionRPM to run or access external sources, click to allow both Public and Private access.

7) **Anti-Virus programs**

If the installed anti-virus program asks whether to block or unblock any AuctionRPM operating program (generally 'AA_Launch' and 'AA_Main'), please 'unblock' or 'always allow' these programs.