

MINESCAPE v5 Q&As

1. What is the planned timeframe for v4 to continue to be supported?

[Ans] Mincom will provide technical support for v4 until all customers have migrated to v5. Once v5 is generally available, Mincom will not provide bug fixes for v4, except where there is a critical work-stopping bug and the customer cannot yet move to v5. This will probably take 12-18 months after MineScape 5.1 is released.

2. Does v5 still require 3rd-party software?

[Ans] No. Exceed and NutCracker are not required with v5. MineScape GDB module still requires Oracle (see #21 below).

3. What is the effort required to install v5 software and the new security administration software at the server?

[Ans] Very easy – no longer than 30 minutes – all in one CD or one download from the Mincom SubscribeNET Software Distribution Website.

4. What is the effort required to set up client PCs so the new security administration software is activated for the user, and they can start to use the new software?

[Ans] Very easy – no longer than 30 minutes.

5. Will both v4 and v5 run on the Windows 7 operating system?

[Ans] M4 is not supported on Windows 7. M5 will run on Windows 7 from release 5.1.

6. What are the technical requirements to convert existing data to v5?

[Ans] None. The existing data can be used directly. Both versions can run in parallel without issue.

7. When we migrate our existing modules to v5, how much training will we need?

[Ans] Users will need about 2 days training to use the new user interface and technical features, including the new printing and plotting functionality.

8. What are the functional differences that will require user training?

[Ans] The following may need user training:

- Some Core user experience components, e.g., Configuration, the CAD has some improvements and differences, there is a new Shell window, there are some new concepts such as Viewport and Session, there is different Coordinate Geometry (COGO), Create Project and Switch to another project.
- Printing.
- The new GeoStatistics module.
- Some developments that were custom-built for clients have been added to core functionality (eg. Short Term Ramp planning is in Open Cut and Dragline).

9. What is a ballpark estimate of the total project cost of upgrading and retraining from v4 to v5?

[Ans] A minimum of 2 days per site of consulting effort, up to 4 days if there is a complex licensing scenario. The cost will depend on the level of the consultant assigned, which will depend on availability, plus travel and accommodation.

10. If I upgrade my existing licences from v4 to v5, will my annual maintenance fees change?

[Ans] No – only by standard CPI or associated annual adjustments.

11. After a project's data has been migrated to v5 can it still be opened and edited in the older version?

[Ans] In general, yes they can. However there are some restrictions:

- Dynamic forms that are generated in v5 are not usable in v4. This is because v5 dynamic forms use Xaml file format, while v4 uses Scc files (compiled into .uid).
- There are some new file formats in v5 that are not usable in v4. These include templates, plotting files, and sessions, among others.

12. In v5, is Core MineScape a mandatory module to be able to run other modules?

[Ans] A qualified "Yes" because all modules rely on Core in some way. For example, customers can just load Stratmodel without having Core, but some context-specific menus will not be available (e.g., when they right-click on a field, or create a design file).

13. If I need say 10 licenses of Stratmodel and Open Cut, can I purchase just 1 license of the Core module?

[Ans] No. As per the above answer, because every module depends in some way on Core, almost every user will need to check out a copy of Core when they check out the module(s) they actually want to use. So the required number of Core module licenses will be determined by the maximum number of all concurrent users. Similarly, the required number of Stratmodel module licenses will be determined by the maximum number of concurrent users of Stratmodel.

14. I have Minescape at 3 locations, and my v4 contract specifies the number of licences of each module that may be used at each location. Can I re-allocate those licences while we are still on v4?

[Ans] Yes. A formal letter is required explaining the redistribution, which Mincom will approve.

15. What impact will the v5 licensing have on companies with Minescape at multiple locations?

[Ans] The impact will be how to distribute their licenses. With v5 licenses, the customer can choose to grant a license to each PC running MineScape. Customer will also have the ability to serve out multiple licenses from a central server within the LAN. The customer can control how they allocate licenses. Using a license server over a WAN is not recommended as performance would be dreadful. Separate license servers will be required at separate sites to get satisfactory performance.

16. There is some new functionality, e.g., GeoStatistics. When will information available about what's new?

[Ans] A powerpoint deck is available covering GeoStatistics 2D functionality. Information about Geostatistics 3D will be available in Q3 2010.

17. If I am not a current v4 client, what will it cost me to buy each of the MineScape v5 modules?

[Ans] The new prices (from Mincom) are higher than for v4, and a quotation will be provided on request. We are still lower than all major competitors.

18. Will the v5 user manual of each module be available online?

[Ans] All existing MineScape product user manuals will be available in the M5 on-line help. Initially there will be some missing (e.g., the M4 manuals that are not currently available, such as Block Modelling, Open Cut Planning, Road Design, and Survey). Mincom will add others as part of future patch releases.

19. If I am a v4 client, but I have allowed maintenance to lapse, what is the process and cost to upgrade to v5?

[Ans] Re-instating licences will be on a case by case basis. The standard method is to reinstate the maintenance for all missed periods at the old rate and then commence current maintenance at the current rate, i.e., 22% of the module price in the new price list. This reinforces the benefits of staying current with maintenance. Continually lapsing and reinstating maintenance hurts Mincom, Mitrais and takes unfair advantage of those clients who do stay current. Not enforcing this would allow such clients to get a free ride to new versions.


20. Is there any change on hardware requirement for V5?


[Ans] Yes. Here are the hardware requirements for V5:

Operating System	Microsoft Windows XP (32-bit) with Service Pack 3 Installed.
Processor	3 GHz Intel Dual Core or greater.
RAM	4 GB or greater.
Hard disk	Up to 455 MB of free disk space for the full MineScape 5 installation. Up to 16 MB of free disk space for Flex License Server installation.
Video/Graphics	512 MB or greater. DirectX compatible.
Mouse	A 3-button mouse with a scroll wheel.
Monitor	Dual monitor supported.

21. What Oracle version is required for V5?

[Ans]

Version	Windows XP 32 bit
Oracle 9i	

Oracle 10g	
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