KDPlan Dashboard

USER MANUAL | VERSION 1.8.9 | 10 NOVEMBER 2026

One place for your KDPlan programs, EPLAN installations, EPLAN scripts, and personal shortcuts.

Free software The Dashboard is a free launcher and package installer. It does not need a license. Paid KDPlan programs and EPLAN modules still use their own licenses.

The screenshots use illustrative test data. The available products, EPLAN years, names, and installed versions on your computer may differ.

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1. Dashboard at a glance

The Dashboard brings your programs, EPLAN versions and shortcuts together in groups. Double-click a tile to open it; a single click selects it, like icons on the Windows desktop. Use Refresh (F5) if an installed program or recent change is not yet visible.

Group	What appears
KDPlan programs	Available and installed KDPlan programs, with their versions.
EPLAN scripts	Free EPLAN scripts and paid EPLAN tools installed through the Dashboard.
EPLAN	Detected Electric P8 variants and Harness / Cable proD tools arranged by year.
My shortcuts and your groups	Your programs, documents, folders and web links, arranged in groups.

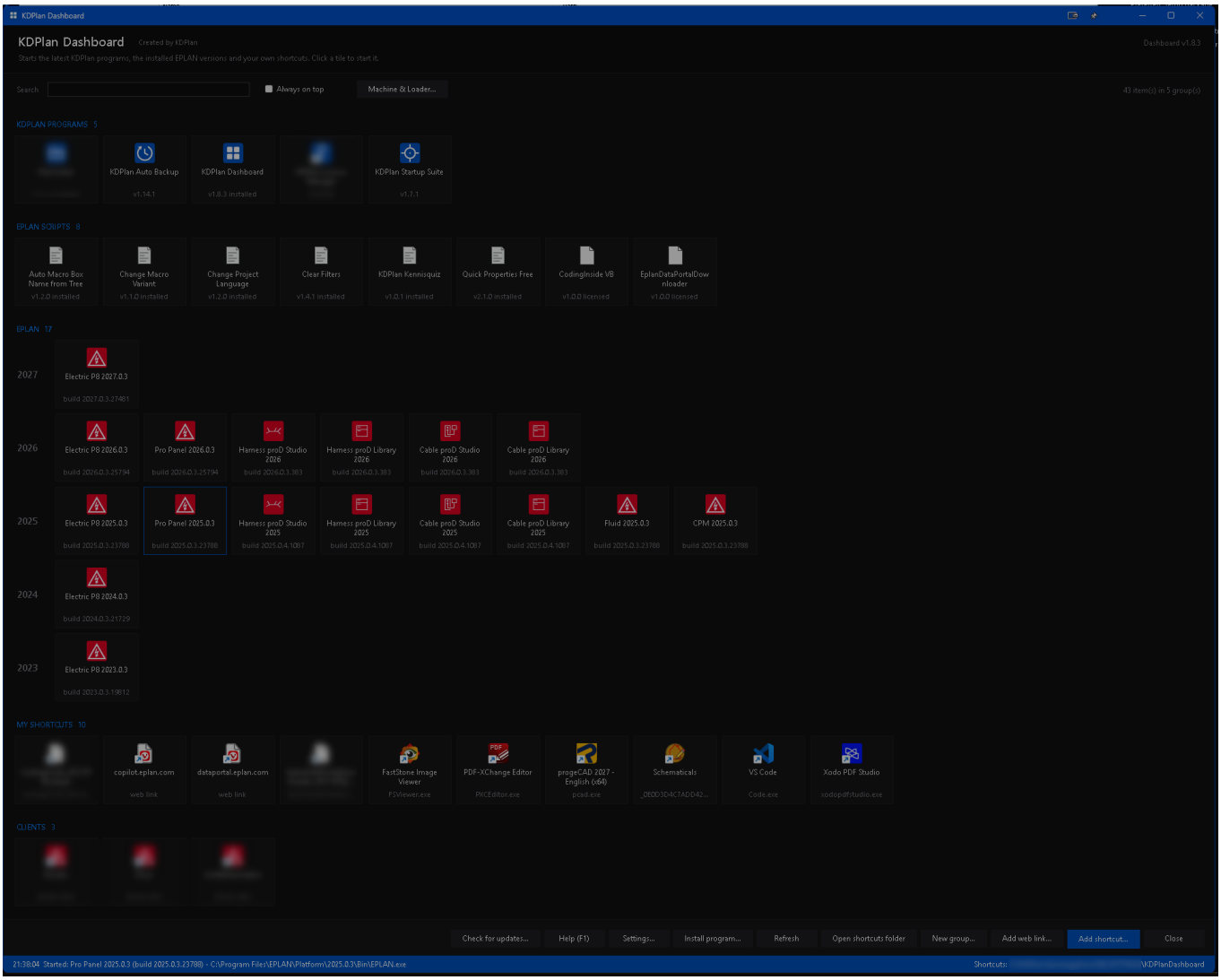


Figure 1. Dashboard overview: search, group tiles, Machine & Loader, and common actions. Example products and versions vary by installation.

2. Get started

For a new installation, use the Dashboard setup package if supplied with the release. Extract it and run **Install KDPlan Dashboard.cmd**. The setup installs the Dashboard into the per-user folder by default, then starts the installed copy. Close any running Dashboard before installing an update.

- The default installation is for your Windows account and normally needs no administrator rights. You can choose another install folder in Settings; Windows may ask for administrator approval.
- The installed Dashboard creates a Start-menu entry and desktop shortcut. You can turn these on or off in Settings.
- The first run asks you to choose a shortcuts folder if one has not been configured. You can skip personal shortcuts and use the automatically discovered program and EPLAN groups.

- Only one Dashboard window opens at a time. Starting it again brings the existing window forward.

3. Find and launch programs

KDPlan program tiles

Your available KDPlan programs appear as tiles. Double-click a tile to start the version shown on it. To change where the Dashboard looks for programs, open Settings > KDPlan programs.

If several versions of a program are available, the Dashboard shows the newest one it finds. Press Refresh (F5) after installing or updating a program.

EPLAN and proD tiles

The EPLAN group lists your installed versions, newest first. It can include Electric P8, Pro Panel, Fluid, Preplanning, and Harness or Cable proD tools.

Double-click the tile for the version and variant you want to start. If EPLAN asks you to choose a variant, select it in EPLAN.

EPLAN shortcuts show the version they will start. An amber warning means the shortcut needs attention; right-click it to check its file location.

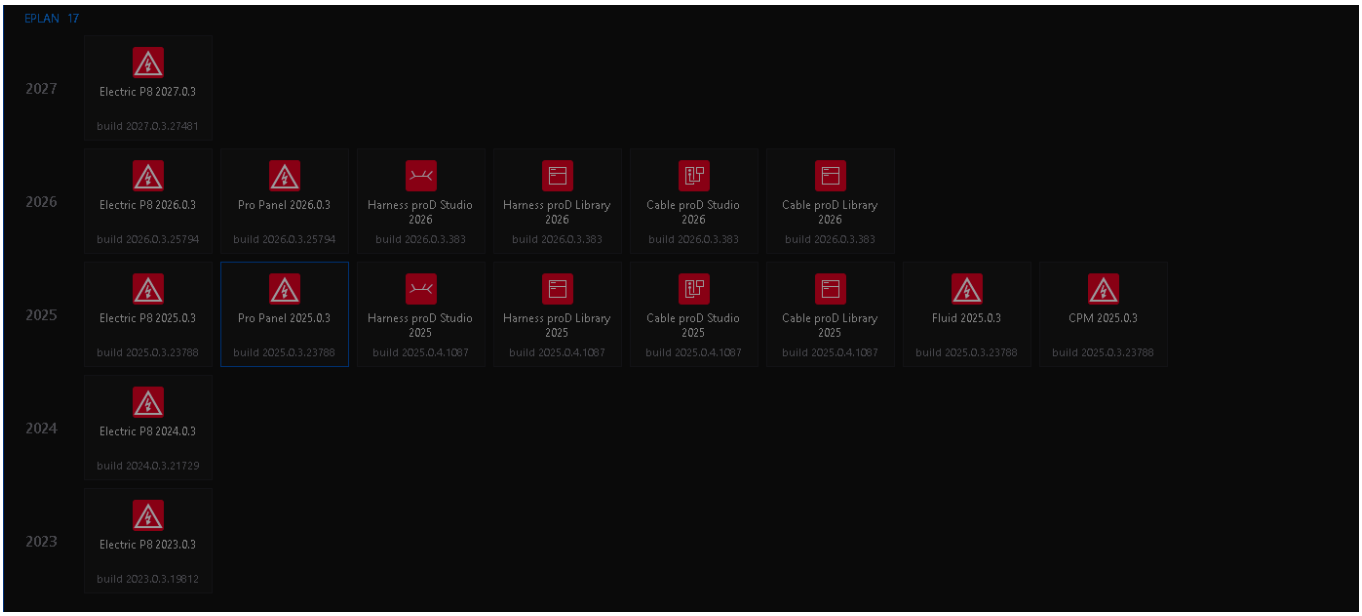


Figure 2. The EPLAN group is arranged by year; scroll to see the remaining installed versions and variants.

4. Add shortcuts and groups

1. Open **Settings... > Shortcuts folder** and choose the folder where you want the Dashboard to read and store shortcuts. A Onedrive or other synchronized folder can be shared across your own PCs.
2. Use Add shortcut... (Ctrl+N) for a program, file, folder or web link (choose it under Type). For a program or file you can add Arguments, e.g. /Variant:"Electric P8" or a project path in quotes. Choose an existing group or enter a new group name.
3. Alternatively, drag files, folders, `.lnk` / `.url` shortcuts, or a link from a browser onto the Dashboard or a group. You can also use **Open shortcuts folder** and add files there directly.
4. Create a group with **New group...** or make a subfolder in the shortcuts folder. A leading order prefix such as `01` or `02_` sorts groups but is not displayed. Files at the root appear in **My shortcuts**.

Changes in your shortcuts folder appear automatically. Folders open in Explorer, web links open in your browser, and documents open in their usual Windows program.

5. Search and tile actions

Use the Search box to filter by a tile name, version, path, or link. Press Enter to open the first match. Right-click a tile for its context menu; Show help (PDF) appears there when the program has a PDF manual. Right-click a group for Dashboard manual (PDF). The **Always on top** checkbox keeps the Dashboard above other windows.

Action	Mouse / keyboard
Open / launch tile	Double-click the tile, or select it and press Enter.
Run as administrator, open file location, copy path	Right-click the tile.
Rename your own shortcut	F2 or right-click. KDPlan/EPLAN tiles cannot be renamed here.
Delete your own shortcut	Del or right-click. The shortcut file goes to the Recycle Bin; its target is not deleted.
Search	Ctrl+F; Enter opens the first result; Esc clears the search.
Add shortcut / web link	Ctrl+N / Ctrl+L.
Rescan	F5 or **Refresh**.
Close	Esc when the search box is empty, or **Close**.

6. Install and remove KDPlan programs

A KDPlan program package is a ZIP. Drop it on the Dashboard or choose **Install program...**. The confirmation shows the program, version, destination, and version being replaced; review it before approving. Bundles can install multiple programs.

What an install does

- The Dashboard installs the program into the folder shown in the confirmation. When updating, check that this is the installation you want to replace.
- Windows may ask for administrator approval when installing into a protected folder. If you cancel that request, nothing is installed.
- Close the program before updating or uninstalling it. If it runs as a Windows service or scheduled task, stop that first using the program's instructions.
- An update keeps the program's lifecycle.config (its signed KDPlan update addresses) when the new package has none; a package with its own lifecycle.config replaces it.

Uninstall

Right-click an installed program tile and choose Uninstall.... This removes the program but keeps its user settings, licenses and separately stored data. If the program uses a Windows service or scheduled task, remove or stop it using that program's instructions first.

7. Install EPLAN script packages

Free KDPlan EPLAN tools come as ZIP packages. Drop the ZIP on the Dashboard or choose Install program..., check the confirmation, and approve the installation.

- Updating a script keeps its existing settings.
- To load a script manually, double-click its tile to locate the file and copy its path. In EPLAN, choose Scripts > Load and select that file. Unload an older copy first.
- For automatic loading, set up the KDPlan Licensed Loader as described in section 9.1. Then use Manage > Sync scripts in EPLAN to make newly installed tools available.

8. Install paid EPLAN modules and activations

For a paid EPLAN tool, install the customer ZIP supplied by KDPlan: drop it on the Dashboard or choose Install program.... You can also install a supplied .kds module file.

- If KDPlan supplies a separate .signed activation file, install the matching module first, then drop the activation file on the Dashboard. Use files supplied for your computer and contact KDPlan if a package is refused.
- The Licensed Loader checks that the tool is licensed for use before opening it in EPLAN. If it cannot load the tool, read the message in its Manage window.
- Paid tools appear in the EPLAN scripts group. An amber activation warning means the tool may need a renewed activation; contact KDPlan for help.

- In EPLAN, open the Loader's Manage window and click Sync scripts after installing, updating or uninstalling a tool in the Dashboard.

9. Machine & Loader

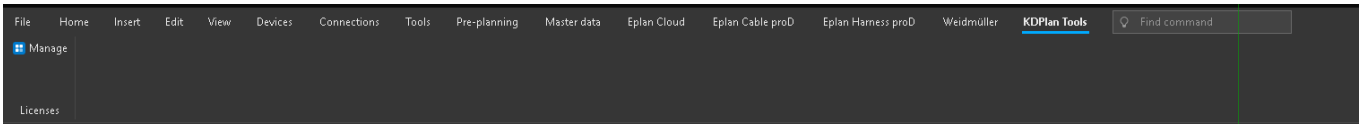
Choose Machine & Loader... beside Search to find the Loader file or request a license for this computer. The dialog shows your computer details, Machine ID and Loader version.

- **Copy** copies the machine details. **Send by mail...** opens a draft in your own mail program using the address in Settings > License requests to. The Dashboard does not send the message; review it and click Send in your mail program. If no mail program is available, the details are copied instead.
- Use Copy path to locate the Loader. Follow section 9.1 to load it into each EPLAN version you use.
- This dialog provides machine information and the Loader path; it does not issue or activate a license.

9.1. LicensedLoader.vb: loading it into EPLAN and using it

The KDPlan Licensed Loader makes Dashboard-installed EPLAN tools available inside EPLAN. Set it up once in each EPLAN environment you use. The Dashboard and free scripts do not need a license.

The Loader requires EPLAN 2023 or newer. Use the Loader supplied with your installed Dashboard; its version is shown in Machine & Loader.

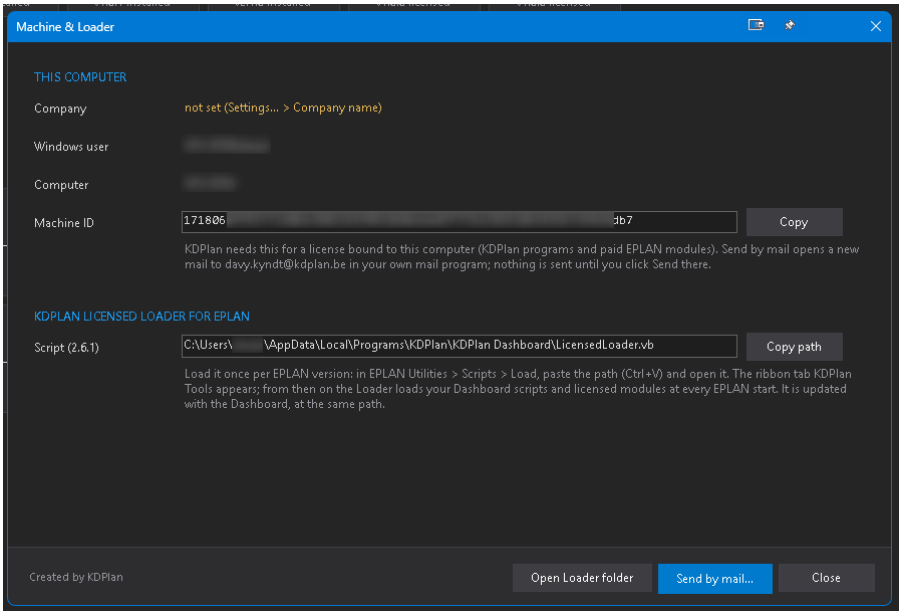


A. Find the Loader supplied with the Dashboard

1. Start the installed KDPlan Dashboard and click Machine & Loader... beside Search.

2. Under KDPlan Licensed Loader for EPLAN, click Copy path. Open Loader folder lets you see the file in Explorer.

3. Use this installed copy of LicensedLoader.vb. Do not move or delete it after loading it into EPLAN.



B. Load (register) LicensedLoader.vb in EPLAN

1. Start the EPLAN version and variant in which you want to use KDPlan tools, under the same Windows account that installed the Dashboard scripts/modules.

2. Open EPLAN's script management and choose Load: File > Extras > Interfaces > Scripts > Load. Ribbon/menu wording can vary by EPLAN version or workspace.

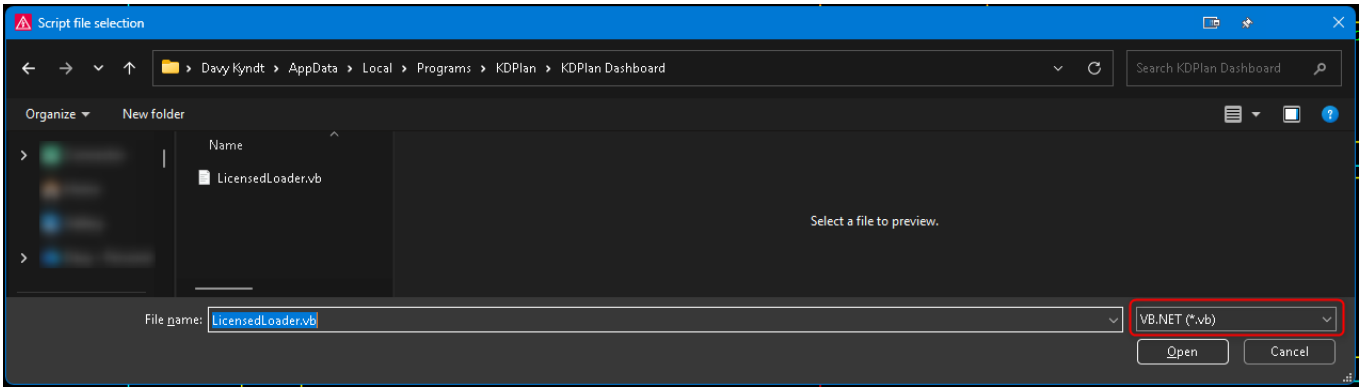
3. In the file-selection dialog, paste the copied full path into File name with Ctrl+V, then click Open. Select LicensedLoader.vb, not a .kds module or .signed activation. Make sure the file extension dropdown box shows “VB.NET (*.vb)”

4. Choose Load, not Run, so the Loader remains available when you use EPLAN.

5. Confirm that the KDPlan Tools ribbon tab appears with Licenses > Manage. If a company name is configured in Dashboard Settings, the shared tab may be named <Company name> Tools.

6. Open Manage and click Sync scripts to load Dashboard-installed scripts and modules immediately. Keep Load scripts and modules at EPLAN start checked if you want automatic loading on future starts.

7. Repeat these steps in each EPLAN version and variant you use. You do not need to repeat them every time EPLAN starts.



C. What the Loader does

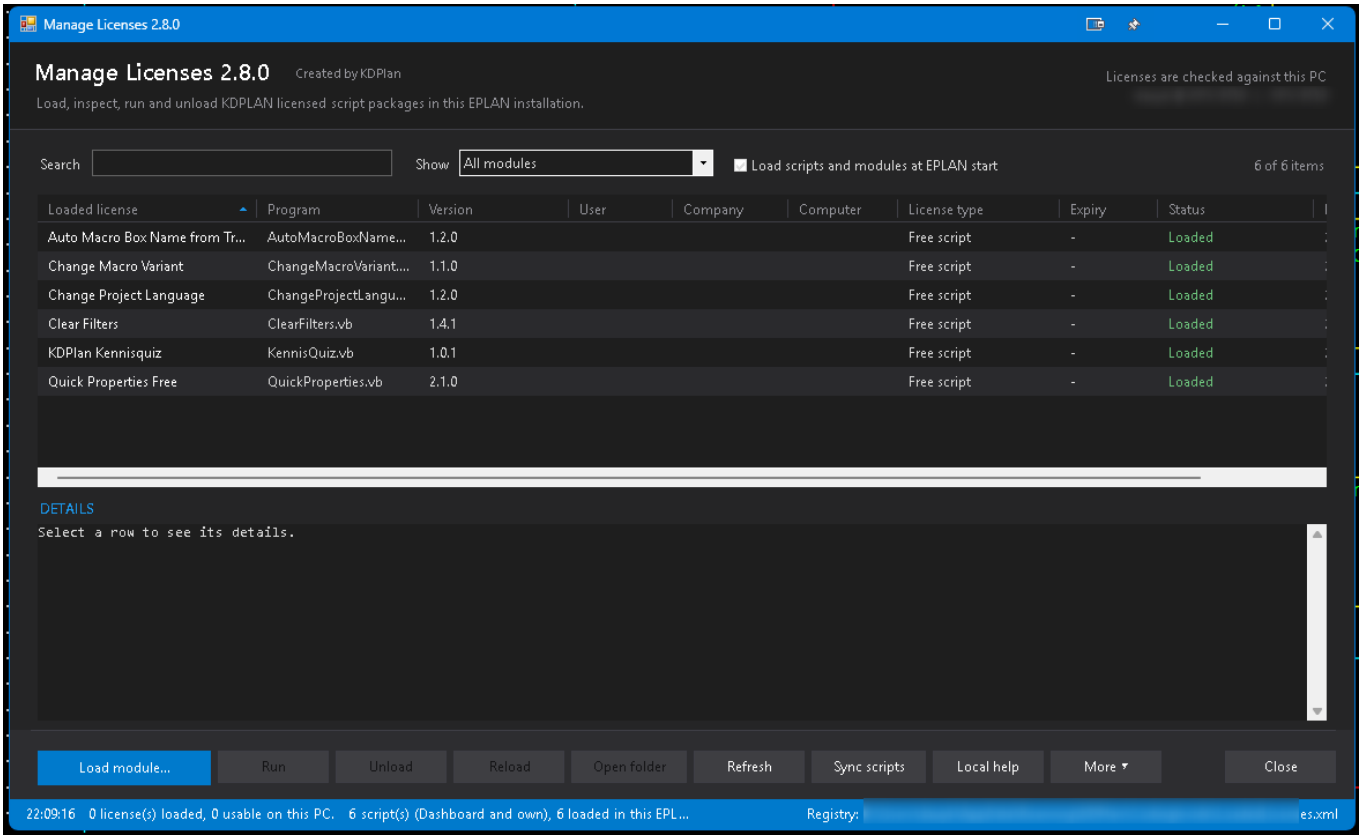
Free tools: loads the free scripts installed through the Dashboard. No license is required for these tools.

Paid tools: checks the license and makes the tool's commands available in EPLAN when it is ready to use.

Automatic startup: keep Load scripts and modules at EPLAN start checked to make your tools available when EPLAN starts. Clearing it turns off automatic loading; tools already loaded stay available. Since Loader 2.8.2 the box clearly shows whether it is checked.

License status: some paid tools need a current activation or an online license-status check. If a tool cannot run, read its status in Manage and follow the suggested steps or contact KDPlan.

New computer: at EPLAN start the Loader fetches the newest activations and the EPLAN blacklist from KDPlan Hosting, also for an installed module that is not loaded yet (Loader 2.8.1 and newer). If a module still asks for a current EPLAN blacklist, connect to the internet and use More > Refresh online status, then Sync scripts.



D. Working in the Manage window

Select a tool to see its version and status. Use Search or the Show filters to find it.

Sync scripts: make newly installed or updated Dashboard tools available, and remove tools you uninstalled, without restarting EPLAN.

Run: open the selected tool. You can also start it from its ribbon button where available.

Unload: stop using the selected tool in this EPLAN environment without deleting its file. Use Load or Reload when you want it available again.

Reload: load the selected tool again after an update, or make an unloaded tool available again.

Load module...: select a .kds tool supplied by KDPlan. You can also add your own .vb or .cs EPLAN scripts; only load scripts from a source you trust.

Open folder: locate the selected tool. Refresh: update the list. Local help: open the Loader instructions. Under More, use Import signed status... for an activation file supplied by KDPlan, Refresh online status to check license status, or Copy Machine ID when requesting a license.

[Insert screenshot here: Manage window, highlighting startup loading, Sync scripts, Run, Unload and Reload.]

E. Updating or removing the Loader

A Dashboard update may also update the Loader. In EPLAN, unload the existing LicensedLoader.vb and load it again from the path shown in Machine & Loader.

For a tool update, install the new package in the Dashboard and click Sync scripts in EPLAN. You do not need to replace the Loader yourself.

To remove the Loader from an EPLAN environment, choose Scripts > Unload and select LicensedLoader.vb. This does not uninstall your Dashboard packages. Free scripts loaded separately may need to be unloaded separately.

F. If loading or synchronization fails

KDPlan Tools is missing: check that you selected LicensedLoader.vb using Scripts > Load, not Run. Look for a company-named Tools tab too. If EPLAN reports an error, keep its message for support.

Loader file is missing: use Machine & Loader in the installed Dashboard to locate it. If it is not there, reinstall the complete Dashboard package.

Installed tool is missing: click Sync scripts in Manage and check its status. Make sure you installed it using the same Windows account. Use Load or Reload if you previously unloaded it.

Paid tool will not load: follow the message shown in Manage. Check that you installed the files KDPlan supplied for your computer. Contact KDPlan if a replacement license or activation is needed.

Message “Cannot find the ‘ECI_ExecuteMiniScript_V3’ action. It is not included in the functionality.” at EPLAN start or in Manage: this came from Loader 2.8.1 and older and is harmless. Unload LicensedLoader.vb and load it again from the path in Machine & Loader (section E) once the Loader version there is 2.8.2 or newer.

When contacting support, include the Dashboard and Loader versions, the affected tool, and the exact error message or a screenshot. KDPlan can help you collect a diagnostic log if needed.

10. Settings

Choose **Settings...** on the main window. Changes apply after **Save**; **Cancel** discards the dialog changes. Company name changes both the window caption and the header immediately. Leave it blank for **KDPlan Dashboard**.

Setting	What it controls
Shortcuts folder	The folder used for your personal shortcuts and groups.
KDPlan programs	Folders where the Dashboard looks for KDPlan programs. Separate multiple folders with semicolons.
Show the KDPlan programs	Show/hide KDPlan program tiles.
EPLAN folders	Folders where the Dashboard looks for EPLAN installations. Separate multiple folders with semicolons.
Show the EPLAN versions	Show/hide the EPLAN grid.
Install folder	Where KDPlan programs are installed. Leave blank to use the default folder for your Windows account.
Company name	Optional text used in the title and header.
License requests to	Recipient for the optional Machine & Loader email draft (default general@kdplan.be; davy.kyndt@kdplan.be is always in CC). The draft asks which product(s) you want a license for. The Dashboard does not send mail automatically.
Always on top	Keep the Dashboard above other windows.
Start-menu, desktop, Start with Windows	Choose how you want to start the Dashboard.
Window size and position	Remembered automatically.

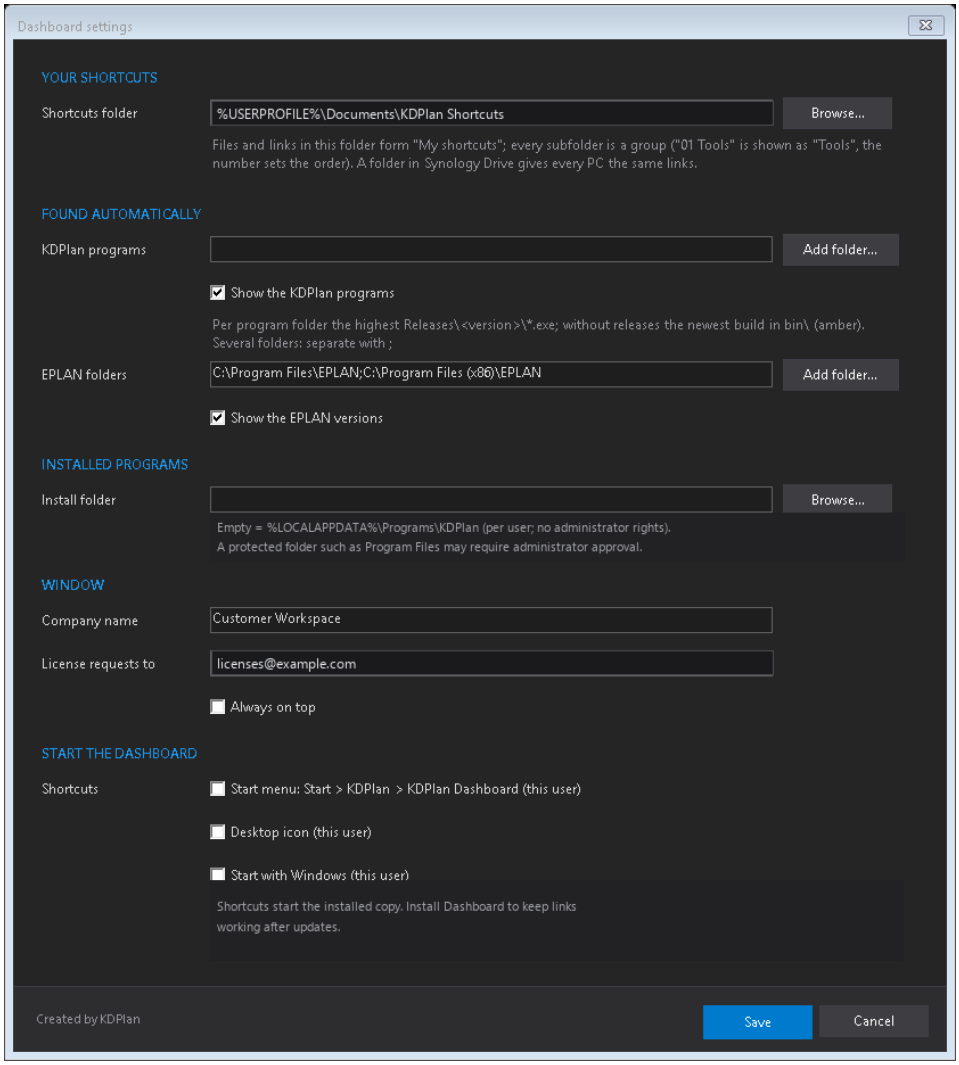


Figure 3. Settings dialog. Paths and mail address are anonymized examples; choose values for your own PC.

11. Install or update the Dashboard itself

Check for updates… tells you whether update information is available. If it reports that updates are not configured or unavailable, use a new release ZIP supplied by KDPlan. Updates are not installed without your confirmation.

Preferred: setup package

If supplied, extract the Dashboard setup ZIP and run Install KDPlan Dashboard.cmd. Close the Dashboard first, follow the setup prompts, and start the installed copy.

Manual package update

5. Extract the new Dashboard ZIP to a temporary folder outside the Dashboard install folder.
6. Close the currently running Dashboard. If you start another copy while it is open, it only activates the existing window.
7. Start `KDPlanDashboard.exe` from the temporary folder and choose **Install program…**. Select the original ZIP and check the destination in the confirmation.
8. Close the temporary copy and start the installed Dashboard from Start > KDPlan or its desktop shortcut. The installed version appears in the header.

Important Close the installed Dashboard before updating it. For the manual method, run the temporary copy outside the install folder.

12. Help, update status, and troubleshooting

Press F1 or choose Help (F1) to open this manual (USER_MANUAL.pdf); without the PDF, the built-in help opens. Help works offline and does not need a license. For updating the Dashboard, follow section 11.

Symptom	Check
KDPlan tile is missing or stale	Press F5. In Settings, check Show the KDPlan programs and the folders being searched. Confirm that the program is installed.
EPLAN tile is missing	In Settings, enable Show the EPLAN versions and check the EPLAN folders.
My shortcuts is empty	Select an existing shortcuts folder in Settings, or choose **Open shortcuts folder**. Files in subfolders appear in their own groups.
Shortcut says target missing	Right-click/Open file location to inspect the shortcut. Repair its target or remove the shortcut; the Dashboard does not delete the target when deleting a shortcut.
A tile shows “version unavailable”	The Dashboard could not read the program version. Try opening the program; if it will not start, contact its supplier.
Package is refused	Use the complete package supplied by KDPlan. Close the affected program, stop its service or scheduled task if applicable, and try again. Keep the error message if you need support.
Dashboard update opens old window	Close the running Dashboard before launching the temporary copy; only one instance per Windows user runs.
Licensed module does not load	Open Manage in EPLAN and follow the message shown for that tool. Contact KDPlan if it needs a renewed license or activation.
Start or desktop shortcut is absent	Enable the desired entries in Settings > Start the Dashboard, then use the installed Dashboard copy.
Check updates names another product or an expiry date	The program’s update configuration (lifecycle.config) belongs to another program or has expired; the message names the expected and found product, or the expiry date. Install the complete package from KDPlan again or contact KDPlan.

13. Privacy, licensing, and version

This manual describes KDPlan Dashboard 1.8.9 and the Licensed Loader 2.8.2. The Dashboard is free and has no time limit. Paid KDPlan programs and EPLAN tools need their own licenses.

Machine & Loader opens an email draft; nothing is sent until you send it yourself. Always review the recipient and message before sending. Review installation and update confirmations before approving them.