



Payroll Professional

Minimum System Requirements

EOY 2026

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Minimum System Requirements for IRIS Payroll Professional 2026

This document describes the various possible installation configurations for the IRIS Payroll Professional products. For each product it details the minimum hardware, software and operating system requirements that should be in place for the installation of the product in a given environment.

Data Storage Options

IRIS Payroll Professional handles two main types of data; central data files and individual payroll data files. As standard the 'Out of the box' set-up assumes these will all use the Microsoft Access file format.

It is optionally possible to use Microsoft SQL Server to hold the individual payroll databases as well as both central data files; the central T2Data client information database, and P2Admin.

Payroll File Storage Options

IRIS Payroll Professional requires several shared folders, configuration and data files, all of which need to be stored in a central location accessible to all machines running the product. Options for achieving this are described below.

Network File Server

Ideally all payroll configuration and data files should be stored in shared folder(s) on a network file server which is accessible to all machines on the network that have the Payroll software installed.

However, if required any workstation on the network that can provide an accessible folder share can be used to fill this role.

Whichever option is used the drive letter of the physical disk or mapped network drive to which the server installation is installed must be available to be used by all other workstations to map to the folder share.

Mapped Network Drives

The use of mapped network drives to a file share is the preferred method of allowing machines where the IRIS Payroll Professional software is installed to access the central data files. Where mapped network drives are used then the share must be mapped using the same drive letter on ALL machines.

UNC to a Folder Share

Where it is not possible to use mapped network drives a direct UNC path to the file share can be used, as with network drive letters the UNC path used must be the same for all machines regardless of whether more than one share is available on the folder.

SQL Server Data File Storage

Where Microsoft SQL Server is used for data storage consideration should be given to the potential increase in disk space and network bandwidth load on the server, see notes on database sizes in the minimum hardware requirements section below. The following versions of SQL Server are supported Please note, we will cease to support IRIS Payroll Professional on any environment using Microsoft operating systems or database server software as and when Microsoft support for that software is no longer provided.

Table 1 - Supported SQL Server Versions

Product	Edition	CPU	Minimum Service Pack	End of Support
SQL Server 2016	Express	X64	RTM	July 2026
SQL Server 2016	Enterprise	X64	RTM	July 2026
SQL Server 2016	Standard	X64	RTM	July 2026
SQL Server 2016	Developer	X64	RTM	July 2026
SQL Server 2017	Express	X64	RTM	October 2027
SQL Server 2017	Enterprise	X64	RTM	October 2027
SQL Server 2017	Standard	X64	RTM	October 2027
SQL Server 2017	Developer	X64	RTM	October 2027
SQL Server 2019	Express	X64	RTM	January 2030
SQL Server 2019	Enterprise	X64	RTM	January 2030
SQL Server 2019	Standard	X64	RTM	January 2030
SQL Server 2019	Developer	X64	RTM	January 2030
SQL Server 2022	Express	X64	RTM	January 2033
SQL Server 2022	Enterprise	X64	RTM	January 2033
SQL Server 2022	Standard	X64	RTM	January 2033
SQL Server 2022	Developer	X64	RTM	January 2033

BMS

Where BMS is being used with IRIS Payroll Professional then SQL server must be used for the shared T2Data database but Access MCP files can still be used for Payroll data.

Virtual Payroll Assistant (VPA)

Where VPA is being used with IRIS Payroll Professional then SQL server must be used for the shared T2Data & P2Admin databases. Access MCP files and/or SQL databases can be used for Payroll data. Please refer to the separate technical requirements document for vPA.

Minimum Hardware Requirements (Client and/or Server Install)

Note that the following minimum hardware specification assumes that the machine is dedicated to running **only** the IRIS Payroll Professional software, where additional software is also being run these may need to be increased considerably.

Table 2 – Minimum Hardware Requirements

Item	Minimum Requirement
CPU	Intel i3 processor or Equivalent.
Memory	6 GB RAM.
Display	Minimum desktop resolution of 1368 x 768
Display with DPI set to greater than Normal (96 DPI)	Minimum desktop resolution of 1368 x 1024 (Setting application settings to classic view with small icons to get improved screen layout)
Available Hard Disk	At least 2Gb free of disk space before installation.
Hard Disk Space for Data Files	<p>In a bureau environment an average of at least 20mb per payroll data file should be allowed initially.</p> <p>In a commercial organisation running a single payroll approximately 200mb should be sufficient initially.</p> <p>Either case will depend on the payroll run frequency and number of employees per file.</p> <p>On a typical database then for each employee per payroll run an additional 260k of disk space is required. This is an approximate figure as this will depend on the complexity of the payroll setup.</p>

Supported Operating Systems

The Following operating systems are supported.

Table 3 – Supported Operating Systems

Product	Edition	CPU	Minimum Service Pack	End of Support
Windows 11	Enterprise	X86/X64	With cumulative updates	TBC
Windows 11	Home	X86/X64	With cumulative updates	TBC
Windows 11	Pro	X86/X64	With cumulative updates	TBC
Windows Server 2016	Standard Edition	X64	With cumulative updates	January 2027
Windows Server 2016	Data Center	X64	With cumulative updates	January 2027
Windows Server 2019	Standard Edition	X64	With cumulative updates	January 2029
Windows Server 2019	Data Center	X64	With cumulative updates	January 2029
Windows Server 2022	Standard Edition	X64	With cumulative updates	October 2031
Windows Server 2022	Data Center	X64	With cumulative updates	October 2031

64Bit Systems

32 bit Payroll is compatible with all 64 bit versions of the aforementioned operating systems and database server software.

Other Installed Software and Runtimes

In addition to the software mentioned above the following runtimes are required for the product to run. These will be installed as part of the product installation (in some instances additional versions may also need to be installed post initial installation see the Usage column in the table below):

Table 4 - Other Software and Runtimes.

Product	Version	Usage
Microsoft .Net Framework.	4.8	Product code execution runtime
SAP Crystal Reports runtime engine for .NET Framework (32-bit).	13.0.3500.0	For reporting. 2016 version 13.0.25.3.3158 needs to be downloaded/applied after installation. Client can use their own later self-licensed variant of the 2016 version (per client workstation). They will need to update file Star.Payroll.GUI.exe.Config with the version installed shown under C:\Windows\assembly\GAC_MSIL\CrystalDecisions.CrystalReports.Engine Note that IPP is not compatible with Crystal 2020 or later.
MS Access Database Engine	2010	myePayWindow Outbox, which includes anything sent to the outbox such as employee data changes, reports etc.

Other Technologies and Environments

Windows Terminal Services / Citrix

While IRIS Payroll Professional is not expressly tested to run in a Windows Terminal Services or Citrix environment, we have several clients successfully running the product with various configurations of this software.

As the product has not been specifically optimised to run in a remotely hosted environment consideration should be given to the increased CPU and bandwidth requirements.

In a multi user setup, optimal performance will be gained using multiple CPUs and/ or cores, separation of data storage and appropriate RAM allocation per user session (3Gb minimum).

Please note that in a distributed environment IRIS Payroll Professional does not support the application server and databases to be separated by the internet or a WAN. In a remote office scenario IRIS Payroll Professional should be installed on an application server within the same LAN (Head Office or data centre for example) as the databases. The user would then use RDP or Citrix to access IRIS Payroll Professional.

Use of Hardware Virtualization Technologies – Virtual Servers and Virtual Machines

While IRIS Payroll Professional is not expressly tested to run with any Server or PC virtualisation technologies, we have several clients successfully running the product with various configurations of this software, such as HyperV.

Consideration should also be given to the significantly increased hardware loads such software requires over and above that normally required by the product.

In a multi user setup, optimal performance will be gained using multiple CPUs and/ or cores, separation of data storage and appropriate RAM allocation per user session (3Gb minimum).

Please note that in a distributed environment IRIS Payroll Professional does not support the application server and databases to be separated by the internet or a WAN. In a remote office scenario IRIS Payroll Professional should be installed on an application server within the same LAN (Head Office or data centre for example) as the databases. The user would then use RDP or Citrix to access IRIS Payroll Professional.

IRIS Payroll Professional and Cloud environments

IRIS Payroll Professional can be deployed in an off premise cloud based environment e.g IRIS hosting, Microsoft Azure, Amazon Web Services but is not expressly tested in such environments (See point 4 below).

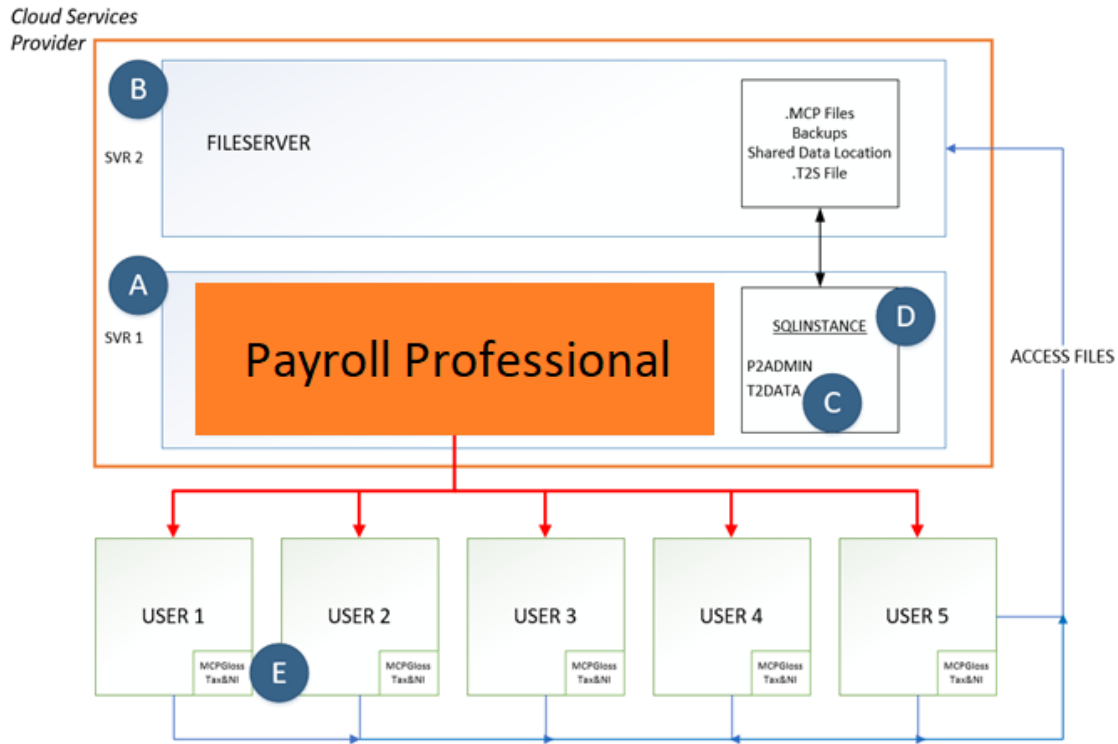
- Payroll Professional can be hosted in the Cloud by various IaaS (Infrastructure as a Service) providers - see further guidance below:
- Currently Payroll Professional does not offer a Cloud SaaS (Software as a Service) solution
- Currently Payroll Professional cannot be re-platformed to work with Cloud PaaS services (Platform as a Service) like Azure SQL and Azure App Service

It is recommended you agree the configuration and security policy with your Third Party system consultant / Microsoft / cloud services / IRIS Account handler if this is your preferred operating environment.

Key Considerations for cloud hosting (Cloud IaaS) IRIS Payroll Professional:

- To ensure EU-GDPR compliance, check that your hosted services are provided from UK-European data centres
- It is important that you have the control over the number of cloud servers used in your cloud system as this has a major impact on reliability (refer to diagram below re items A-E)
 - A. A single central instance of IRIS Payroll Professional will need to be installed on a single server as a terminal server (e.g. Azure golden image)
 - B. IRIS Payroll Professional Shared data location can also be on the same server or another single fileserver (shared data should not be split across multiple servers for latency reasons)
 - C. IRIS Payroll Professional's central databases T2DATA and P2ADMIN must be migrated to SQL server to minimise latency issues
 - D. SQL server must be installed on the same server as the single central Payroll Professional instance (3.1 above).
 - If you have SQL payroll data-file's then IRIS Payroll Professional in application payroll backups and restores will require specific attention and testing with regards to user authentication and location of physical backups (in particular on AWS)
 - E. The remaining central MS Access datafiles (MCPGloss and Tax&NI) must be configured for local 'temp folder' operation per user image
- Please note the above are guidelines based on our experiences to date with the providers as per item 2. Please contact IRIS before migrating your system to the cloud to get the latest information and any updates on cloud hosting
- IRIS cannot guarantee the use of the software in cloud hosted environments beyond these generic hosting guidelines and clients are recommended to seek specialist third-party technical advice when cloud deploying Windows desktop software such as IPP. Detailed cloud hosting configuration advice falls outside the scope of the standard IRIS software support service

Diagram 1 – Cloud hosting server schematic



You will need to account for your own storage and backup/restore methods when using Cloud services; You should discuss this with your third Party system consultant/Microsoft/ IRIS account manager

IRIS Payroll Professional and Microsoft Software Support:

Over and above the aforementioned limitations, we will cease to support IRIS Payroll Professional on any environment using Microsoft operating systems or database server software as and when Microsoft support for that software is no longer provided.

Minimum requirements for myePayWindow and vPA

In order to use the myePayWindow Portal and vPA the following rules must be allowed in your firewall:

Product	Port	URL
vPA	443	https://webapi.mypaywindow.com/
myePayWindow	443	https://webapi.mypaywindow.com/

Supported web browsers

Product	Microsoft Edge	Google Chrome	Mozilla Firefox	Apple Safari
vPA	-	✓	-	-
myePayWindow	✓	✓	✓	✓

Useful numbers

HMRC online service helpdesk	HMRC employer helpline
Tel: 0300 200 3600	Tel: 0300 200 3200
Fax: 0844 366 7828	Tel: 0300 200 3211 (new business)
Email: helpdesk@ir-efile.gov.uk	

Contact Sales (including stationery sales)

For IRIS Payrolls	For Earnie Payrolls	For IRIS Payroll Professional
Tel: 0344 815 5656	Tel: 0344 815 5676	Tel: 0345 057 3708
Email: sales@iris.co.uk	Email: earniesales@iris.co.uk	Email: payrollsales@iris.co.uk

Contact Support

Your Product	Phone	E-mail
IRIS PAYE-Master	0344 815 5661	payroll@iris.co.uk
IRIS Payroll Business	0344 815 5661	ipsupport@iris.co.uk
IRIS Bureau Payroll	0344 815 5661	ipsupport@iris.co.uk
IRIS GP Payroll	0344 815 5681	gpsupport@iris.co.uk
IRIS GP Accounts	0344 815 5681	gpaccsupport@iris.co.uk
Earnie or Earnie IQ	0344 815 5671	earniesupport@iris.co.uk
IRIS Payroll Professional (formerly Star)	0344 815 5555	payroll-support@iris.co.uk

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