

Bernd Gischel

**EPLAN Electric P8 Reference Handbook**

Bernd Gischel

# EPLAN Electric P8 Reference Handbook

4<sup>th</sup> edition



Hanser Publishers, Munich  
Hanser Publications, Cincinnati

HANSER

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Translated by think global GmbH, Berlin, Germany

Distributed in North and South America by  
Hanser Publications  
6915 Valley Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45244-3029, USA  
Fax: (513) 527-8801  
Phone: (513) 527-8977  
[www.hanserpublications.com](http://www.hanserpublications.com)

Distributed in all other countries by  
Carl Hanser Verlag  
Postfach 86 04 20, 81631 Munich, Germany  
Fax: +49 (89) 98 48 09  
[www.hanser-fachbuch.de](http://www.hanser-fachbuch.de)

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Cataloging-in-Publication Data is on file with the Library of Congress.

Bibliografische Information der deutschen Bibliothek:

Die Deutsche Bibliothek verzeichnet diese Publikation in der Deutschen Nationalbibliografie; detaillierte bibliografische Daten sind im Internet über <<http://dnb.d-nb.de>> abrufbar.

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© Carl Hanser Verlag, Munich 2016

Production Management: Denise Jäkel

Coverconcept: Marc Müller-Bremer, [www.rebranding.de](http://www.rebranding.de), München, Germany

Coverdesign: Stephan Rönigk

Typesetted by Kösel Media GmbH, Krugzell, Germany

Printed and bound by Firmengruppe Appl, aprinta druck, Wemding, Germany

Printed in Germany

ISBN 978-1-56990-498-5

E-Book ISBN 978-1-56990-499-2

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# Preface

Dear Users,

EPLAN Electric P8 is CAE software that is constantly being further developed. It offers innumerable project editing options and provides new innovations with each new version.

Version 2.5 is the result of continual development of previous versions. This version once again incorporates a wide range of user requirements and requests that have arisen during the practical use of EPLAN.

This fourth edition of this book has been revised and expanded based on Version 2.5 to demonstrate the wide range of functions in EPLAN Electric P8. The book is meant to make it easier to start using the software and to smoothly guide you around initial hiccups when working with EPLAN Electric P8. Numerous practical examples show you what is possible with Version 2.5.

Of course, like its predecessors, this edition cannot and will not describe all of the software's functions or provide examples for every conceivable function. EPLAN Electric P8 becomes increasingly comprehensive with every new version, as it does with this one, and it offers a variety of functions that cannot be completely covered in a single book. A book that describes all the functions would have thousands of pages and be impractical for the reader.

In Version 2.5, there are also many ways to reach the same goal. I will present and discuss some solutions. Others you will discover yourself and ask yourself why no one has ever tried it this or that way before.

This book will recommend solution approaches and demonstrate solutions that will help simplify your everyday work. It will help you make necessary decisions.

The book is addressed to everyone who uses EPLAN Electric P8 for electrical engineering designs - both daily and sporadic EPLAN Electric P8 users as well as engineers, electrical engineers, pupils and students.



I would like to express my thanks to Julia Stepp and her team at the Carl Hanser Verlag for the opportunity to write and publish this book. I would also like to sincerely thank my family, especially my wife Susanne. They have always been, and continue to be, very patient with me.

I would also like to thank all of the readers who have made this book a success. All feedback, whether criticism or praise, has always been a strong motivator for me to revise this book.

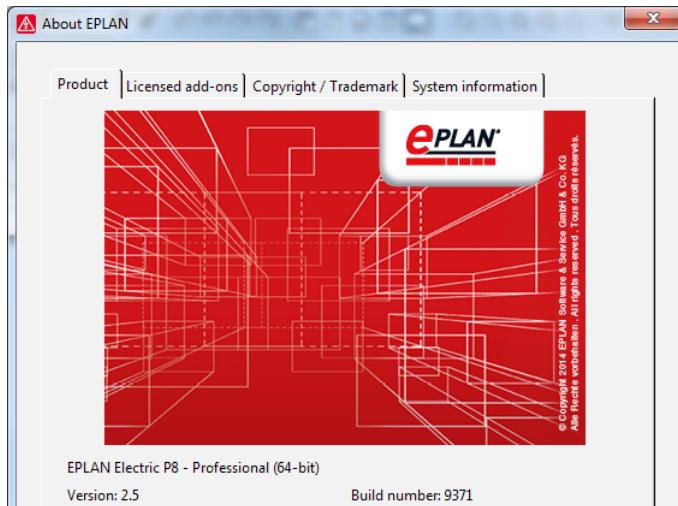
And finally, I would again like to thank EPLAN Software & Service GmbH & Co. KG for their consistent and very friendly support and collaboration in compiling some of the information for this edition of the EPLAN Electric P8 Reference Handbook.

### Important notes

All of the examples and explanations assume local installation and local operation of EPLAN. Furthermore, the book assumes that the user has all of the user rights in EPLAN and is logged in as the local administrator.

It is possible that, depending on the user's license and module package, certain functionality or a certain function described in the book will not be available or executable in the way in which it is explained and illustrated. Therefore, you should always check to see which licensed add-ons you have (via **HELP / ABOUT / LICENSED ADD-ONS TAB**).

For this book, EPLAN Electric P8 Professional Edition 2.5 was used.



Help / Info / Product tab



**NOTE** for users of previous versions: Certain parts of the functions described here may exist in EPLAN Electric P8 Versions 1.7 to 1.9 and 2.0 to 2.4, but their use, settings and range of functionality may differ from the current Version 2.5.



The examples used in the book are available as an EPLAN Electric P8 project at [www.eplan-efficient-engineering.com/handbook](http://www.eplan-efficient-engineering.com/handbook).

Some of the settings used in this book, such as those for filters or schemes, differ from the standard EPLAN installation. All of this additional data is available in the sample data. In addition, some custom, non-standard shortcut keys were also used.

The following text boxes are used to visually highlight notes, tips, etc.



**NOTE:** This box contains important notes that should be observed when using EPLAN Electric P8.



**TIP:** This box contains helpful tips for everyday working with EPLAN Electric P8.



This box provides additional information and tips.

Whenever this symbol appears in the book's margin, you will find questions and answers to problems that occurred during actual use of EPLAN Electric P8.



# 1

# Installing EPLAN Electric P8

Since installation requires few steps and can only be performed by the system administrator, this chapter provides only a basic description of this process. EPLAN is usually already installed on the workstation.

Installation of EPLAN generally requires administrator rights. The system administrator also designates at least one EPLAN administrator who will later manage the EPLAN users (also known as rights management). If rights management is not used, then EPLAN can be started by all users without requiring passwords, etc.

User management (an add-on that must be purchased separately and is not always included with every license) is not described in this book. Brief general information is provided as necessary at the appropriate points.



**NOTE:** Starting with EPLAN Electric P8 Version 2.5, only the 64-bit variant will be available. The use of Microsoft Office 64-bit is required to use Access databases. Microsoft Office 32-bit can still be used though, but the parts/translation/project database will have switched to SQL or SQL Express.

## ■ 1.1 Hardware

EPLAN has no special requirements for the graphics card or other hardware components. A standard computer as used for Office applications, for example, is sufficient. Even for the graphic card, the more available memory, the smoother EPLAN runs. Certain add-ons, such as EPLAN Pro Panel and its extensions, have other hardware requirements that affect the graphics card and its drivers.

I feel that a single-screen solution can no longer be recommended for EPLAN due to the many additional modular dialogs that can be displayed, such as the various navigators. A two-screen solution is clearly preferable, and a three-screen solution with each screen having a resolution of at least  $1680 \times 1050$  pixels is ideal.

Of course, EPLAN still functions with just one screen. But this screen should have a resolution of at least  $1280 \times 1024$  pixels.

## ■ 1.2 Installation

As far as installation is concerned, EPLAN is a normal Windows program. Apart from a few entries during the installation, the new EPLAN Setup Manager (available since Version 2.1) performs most of the work. There are only a few entries in the Windows registry, which is commendable and not always the case today.

Installation is usually started using the installation CD. The *Setup.exe* file in the root directory of the CD is run to begin installation. Installation after downloading the installation package from the EPLAN homepage works the same way (the downloaded ZIP file unpacks the installation data into the same directories that would be on the installation DVD).

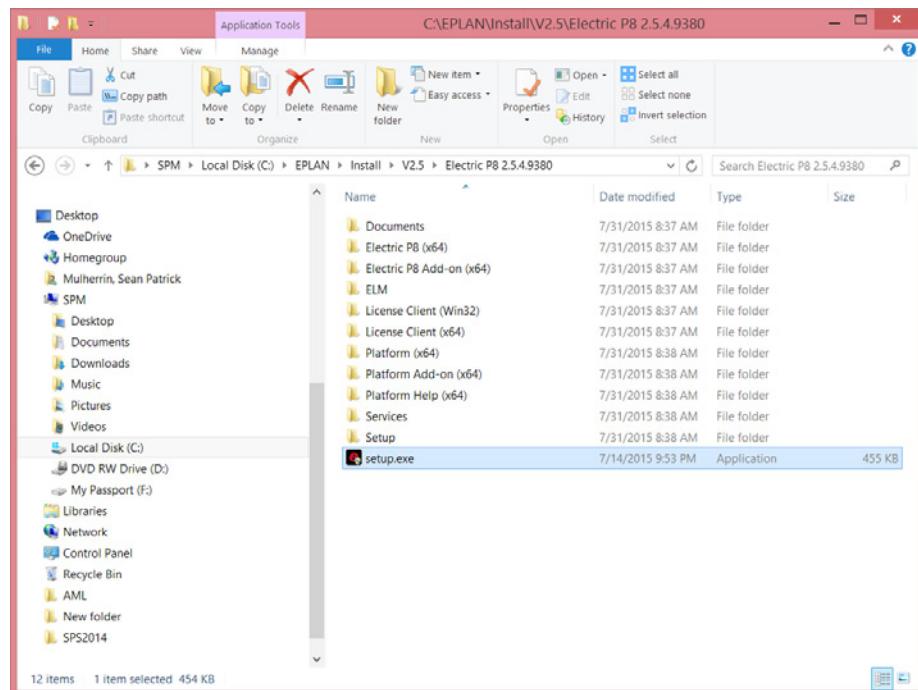


Fig. 1.1 Installation directory

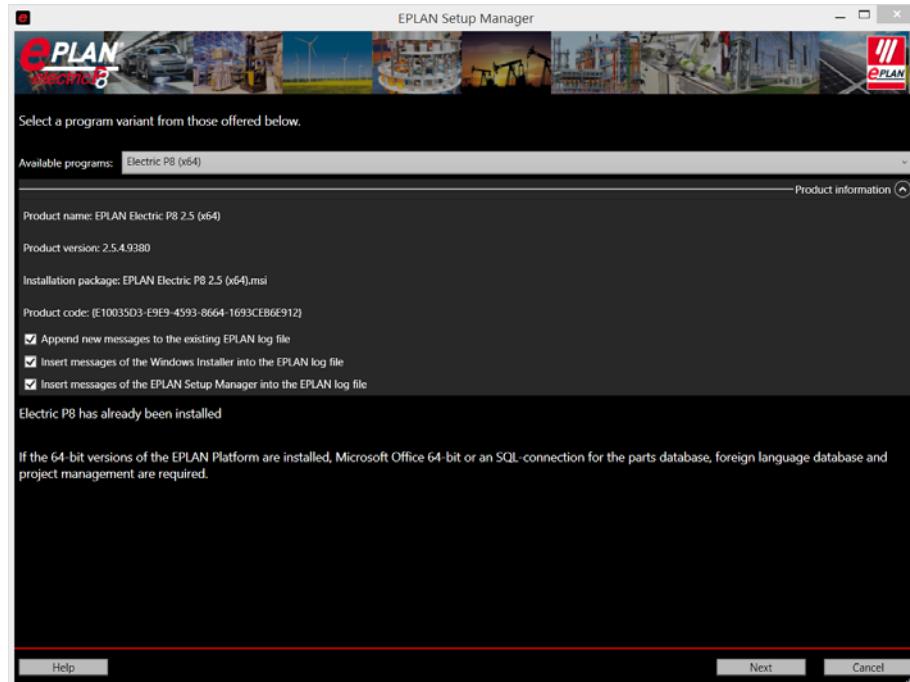
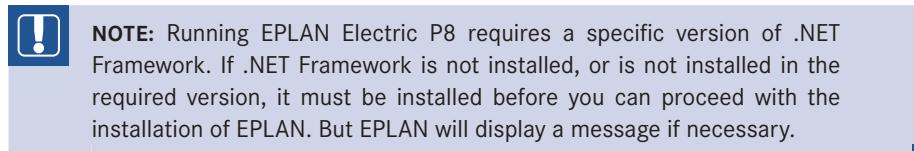


Fig. 1.2 The EPLAN Setup Manager's basic settings

When the **NEXT** button is clicked, the license agreement dialog is displayed. This must be accepted in order to use the EPLAN Setup Manager.

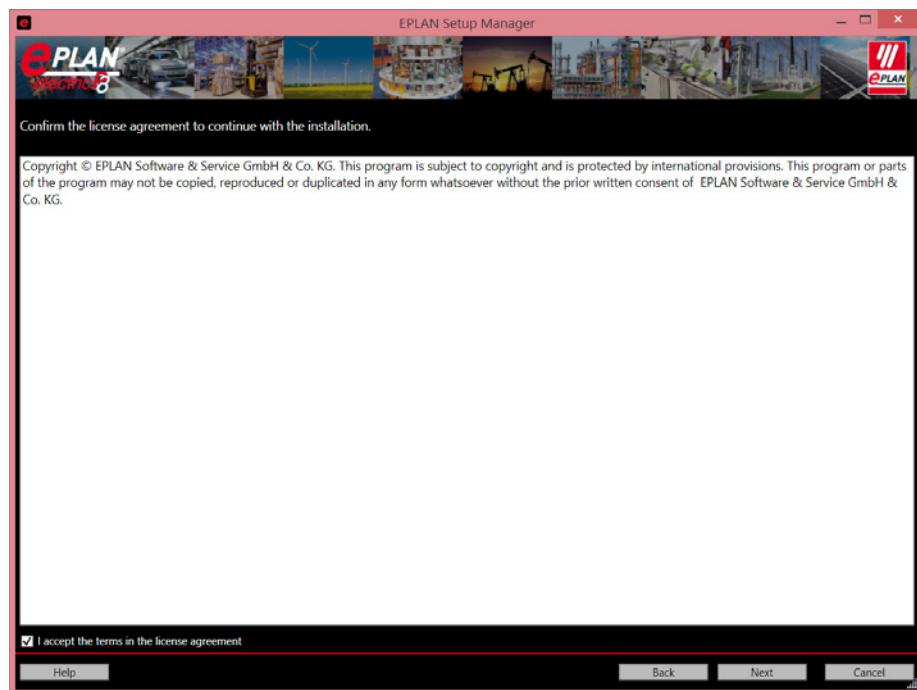


Fig. 1.3 Licensing agreement dialog

After the dialogs showing the EPLAN Setup Manager's basic settings and the available programs, the first installation dialog appears.

When the **Next** button is clicked, the **Target directories, settings** dialog is displayed. This is where you set the *program directory*, the *system master data directory*, the *company code*, and the directories for *user, workstation and company settings*. You must also define the *measuring unit* for the system, the implementation type of the *help system* (online or local), as well as also the directory for the *EPLAN original master data*. This ensures that your own master data is always synchronized with the original EPLAN master data.

EPLAN always suggests default directories for the installation.