# AbaClient

v 2.1

April 2019 / PS

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# 1 AbaClient

## 1.1 Why AbaClient

With the release announcement of Java 11, Oracle is withdrawing from Java on the desktop and in the browser, the support of Web-Start in the JRE is completely eliminated.

In addition, the business use of Java SE 8 requires a commercial support license from Oracle as of the version announced for January 2019.

For Abacus users, these changes mean that legal uncertainties arise when staying on Java version 8 and that it is no longer possible to start ULC applications via the browser when using newer versions.

## 1.2 AbaClient overview

AbaClient combines a Java-like environment provided and maintained by Abacus with a browser. This breaks the dependency on the Oracle Java version and eliminates unexpected problems with updates on the part of Oracle The browser is specially tailored to Abacus needs which allows the handling of certificates generated for Abacus without warning messages.

AbaClient was developed for use with Abacus ULC applications. To access the various web portals, we recommend that you use the web browser of your operating system.

## 1.3 AbaClient as 32-bit Version

AbaClient will be delivered from version 2.0 as a pure 32-bit application for Windows.

## 1.4 New file format "abalink"

AbaClient works with the new "abalink" format introduced by Abacus from V2019. Starting with V2019, JNLP is no longer used and is replaced by the ABALINK format.

If AbaClient is installed, it is registered as the default program for opening "abalink" and "jnlp" files. As before, Abacus can be started by double-clicking on the corresponding file.

JNLP files from "non-Abacus" applications are automatically passed by AbaClient to the locally installed Java. AbaClient does not open JNLP files that do not originate from Abacus.

### 1.4.1 JNLP files

AbaClient recognizes the new "abalink" format used from Abacus version 2019, but can also handle the "jnlp" format of older Abacus versions and is therefore well prepared for all Abacus versions.

JNLP files which do not originate from Abacus are passed on to the local Java environment and are not opened by AbaClient.

**WARNING: If the compatibility mode is not active, JNLP files cannot be opened with AbaClient.**

### 1.4.2 Compatibility mode

AbaClient offers the compatibility mode as of version 2.1.



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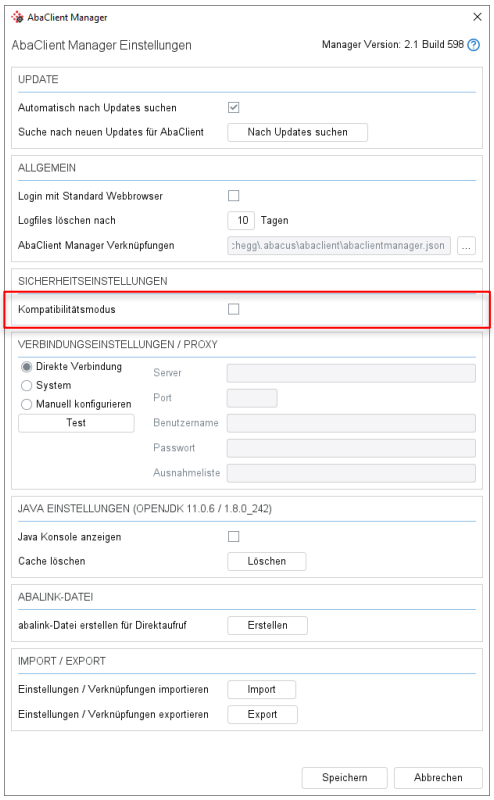


If the compatibility mode is active, abalink files and JNLP files can be started. This means that older installations can also be started.

If the compatibility mode is deactivated, AbaClient will only start Abacus versions that have the appropriate security settings and which are activated.

The new security setting is supported by the following Abacus versions:

- Release Version 2020 from 15.02.2020
- Version 2019 with service pack from 15.03.2020

Abacus installations with activated security settings cannot be started with older AbaClient versions. Conversely, an AbaClient with an activated security setting can no longer start installations that do not support or do not have this mode activated.

Abacus versions 2018 or older can only be started in compatibility mode.

In the following Knowledge Base article you will find more information about the new security settings and the corresponding settings:
https://support.abacus.ch/kb/display/KB/KB-7997

### 1.4.3 Version overview "jnlp" vs. "abalink"

Versions up to and including version 2018 = JNLP



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Versions from version 2019 = abalink

**Abacus ULC applications from version 2019 onwards can only be started via AbaClient.**

## 1.5 AbaClient and HTML portal

Abacus offers various portals via HTML.

AbaClient is a pure ULC client and is not tested in connection with the different HTML portals. AbaClient does not support the opening of portals via the internal Chromium Browser.

Abacus does not guarantee the operability of the portals via AbaClient. Problems in the area of export or printing may occur when using AbaClient.

We would like to point out that the different portals are based on HTML and should therefore be used via the normal system web browser. AbaClient was not developed for use with portals.

## 1.6 AbaStart

AbaClient is a new development and replaces the product AbaStart.

The last AbaStart update was released in July 2018 and further development of AbaStart was therefore stopped.



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# 2 AbaClient Standard and AbaClient Manager

AbaClient is available in two versions.

One is a command line program (default) - which reproduces the behaviour of the current client (Webstart) 1:1 and does not require a graphical user interface. (except for the settings dialog via the shortcut under Start/Programs)

AbaClient as a command line program is now the new standard for customers with which to start Abacus.

AbaClient is also available as a "Manager" version. It contains a graphical user interface and the possibility to operate several Abacus installations. This version of AbaClient is recommended for distribution partners and customers with more than one Abacus installation.

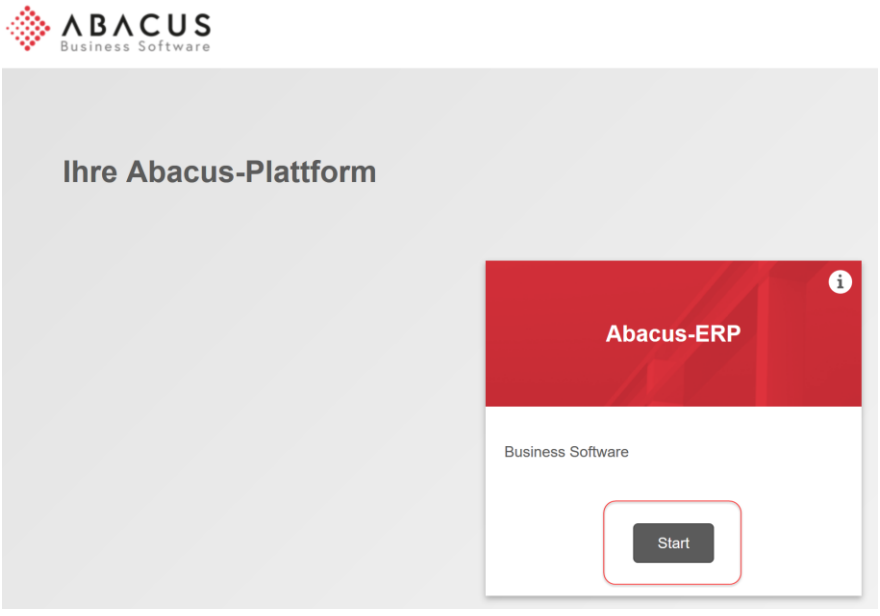
## 2.1 AbaClient Standard

In the standard version of AbaClient, in the Programs menu under Windows an entry "AbaClient" is stored, but this link only serves to open the settings for AbaClient. A graphical user interface is not available and is not required.

## 2.2 Start Abacus application (command line program)

### 2.2.1 Via Index site

The procedure is identical to the procedure for the Java Webstart and is carried out via the browser.




*Open the server URL in the browser and click on "Start". The start process is based on the Java Webstart.*



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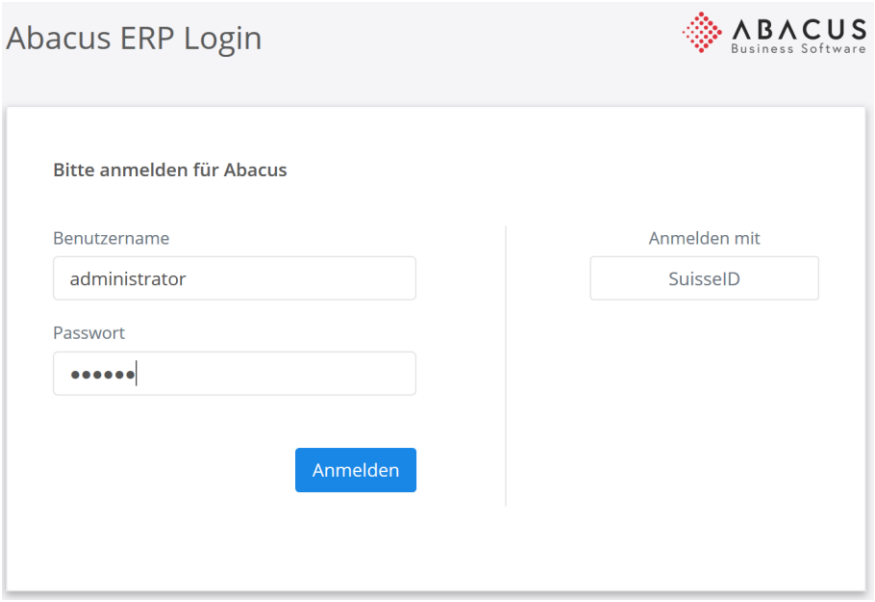
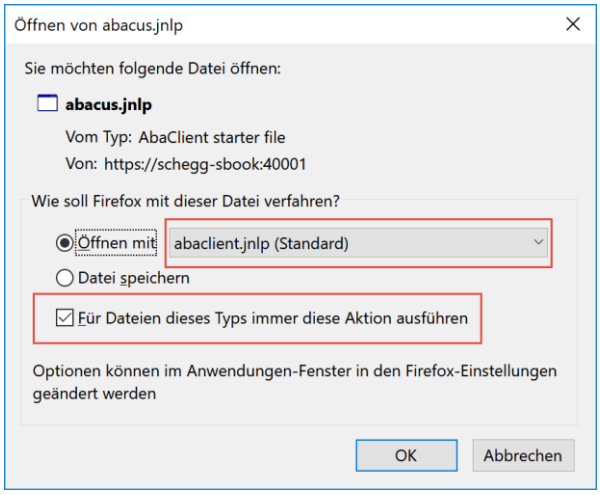



*Enter your username and password.*




*Query with which program the .jnlp or .abalink file should be opened.*

Select *"Always perform this action for files of this type".* The query should no longer appear in the future. This setting is dependent on the browser used.

*AbaClient starts …*



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*...the application.*

### 2.2.2 Via abalink file

For many users, the easiest way to start an application is to do it through a desktop shortcut. A desktop shortcut can also be easily integrated into the Quick Launch bar, making it even easier to launch the application.

With AbaClient it is also possible to use desktop shortcuts to start Abacus.

All you need to do is generate an abalink file which contains the information about the Abacus server. How to easily generate an abalink file is described in **3.1.8** .

This abalink file can then be stored directly on the desktop of the corresponding client or clients. If the abalink file is executed, AbaClient is automatically opened and the login screen is displayed to the user.

If the same abalink file is to be used for all clients within a network, this abalink file can of course also be distributed to all clients.

## 2.3 AbaClient Manager

The Manager version of AbaClient is also displayed under "AbaClient Manager" as a shortcut in Windows startup. A desktop shortcut is also created.

AbaClient Manager has a graphical user interface and will be used especially where several Abacus installations have to be operated.

In the Manager you can add as many Abacus installations as you like and they will be visible as tiles. In addition to installations, URLs or groups can be created.

Starting with AbaClient 2.0 it is possible to add a URL. This is needed if you don't want to login directly, but want to open the start page of an Abacus installation. Please note that starting Abacus via a tile with a URL is only possible if the button on the start page goes via the so-called "direct login". This is standard starting from version 2019 SP1.

URL tiles have been developed for use with Abacus ULC applications. They are therefore not intended and cannot be used for pure surfing.



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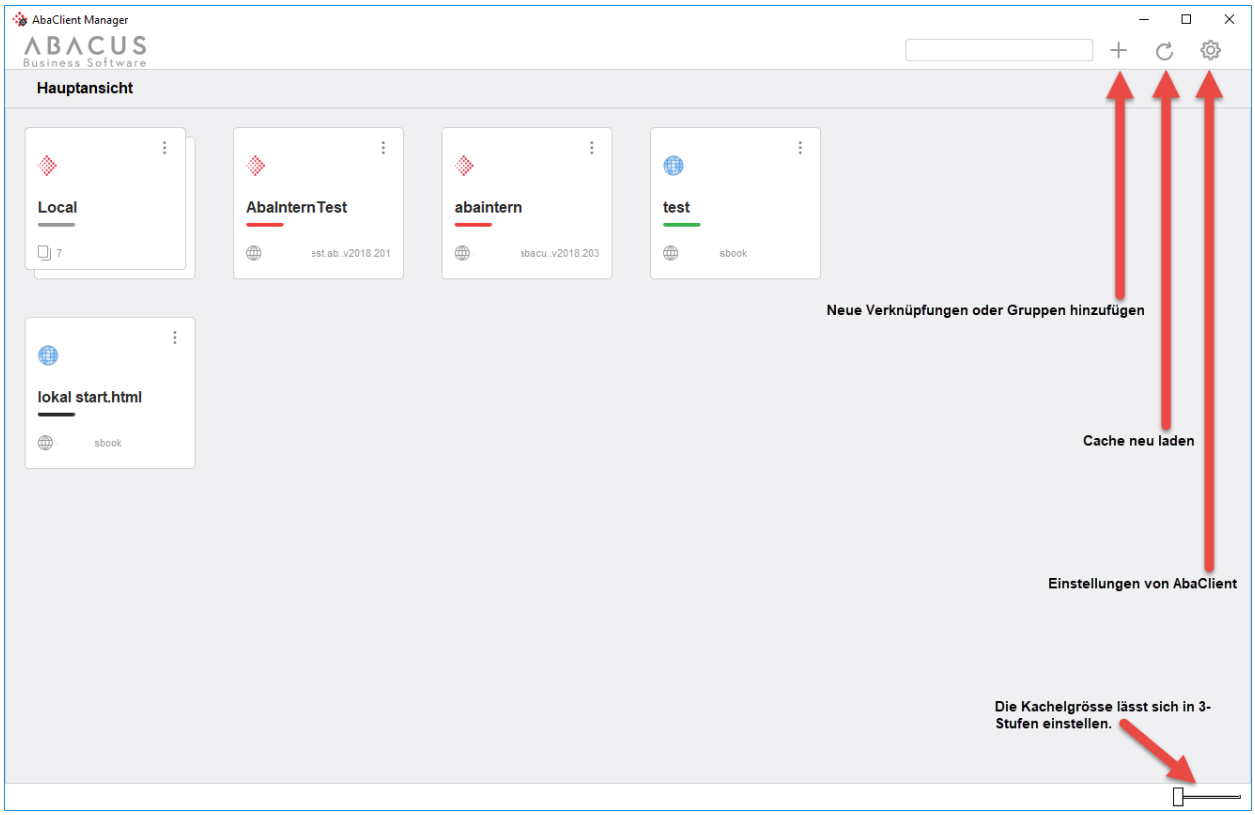



*View "AbaClient Manager 2.0"*

### 2.3.1 Abacus link

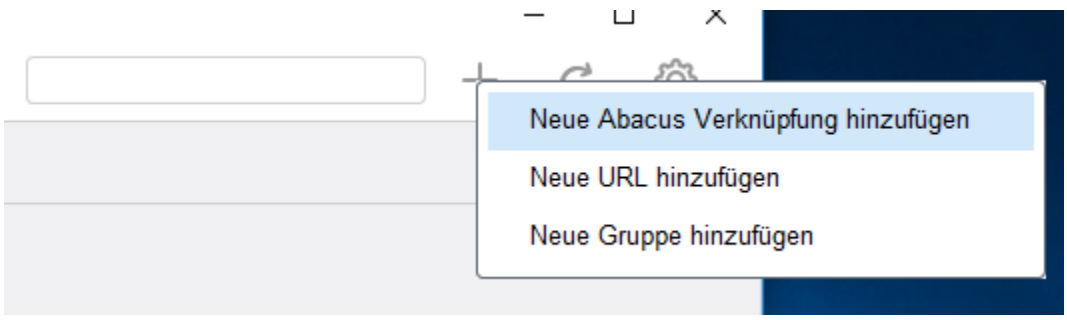
AbaClient Manager offers the possibility to create shortcuts for several Abacus installations. Each shortcut is assigned a name. Of course, the correct URL and port are also required to access the corresponding server.

In addition to name and URL, each link can also be assigned a colour and an icon or logo. This makes it easier to distinguish between the tiles.

Links are the standard and bring the user directly to the login.

### 2.3.2 Add Abacus link

There are two ways to add a new Abacus installation in AbaClient Manager. First you can use the button "+" in the upper right corner of the search field.




Another possibility is to right click in the empty area of AbaClient Manager and then create the new shortcut via the context menu.



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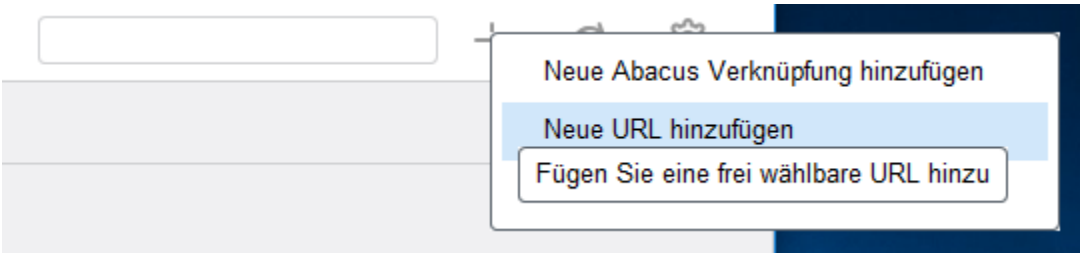
### 2.3.3 URL

AbaClient-Manager offers the possibility to create a URL tile. This type of tile was developed for customers who first want to direct their users to the Abacus homepage. Starting Abacus ULC programs then happens via the "Start" button on the start page.

#### 2.3.3.1 Add URL - from Version 2019

Please note that versions older than v2019 cannot work with these tiles by default. Version 2019 uses the so-called "Directlogin" via the "Start" button.

There are two ways to add a new Abacus installation in AbaClient Manager. First you can use the button "+" in the upper right corner of the search field.




Another possibility is to use the right click in the empty area of AbaClient Manager and then create the new URL via the context menu.

#### 2.3.3.2 Add URL - Version 2018

For v2018 there is the possibility to adjust the HTML code behind the "Start" button so that they also execute a direct login when the button is pressed.

So that the direct login can be used, the "index.html" page must be adapted under v2018.

Open the index.html which is located in the ../abac/http_root and search for the following entry:

```
<div class="card__button">
<a href="abastart" target="_self" class="button button--login">Start</a>
</div>
```

Select the complete area, i.e. the complete code as described above.
Replace the marked area with the following code:

```
<div class="card__button">
<a href="abastart?linkMode=DirectLogin" target="_self" class="button
button--login">Start</a>
</div>
```

#### 2.3.3.3 General URL

The possibility to create tiles with URL's was created to link to the Abacus homepage.

URL tiles have been developed for use with Abacus ULC applications. A use for pure surfing is therefore not supported.



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The "stay signed in" feature is also supported on URL tiles.

### 2.3.4 Groups

A group contains several links and thus provides a better overview of many links.

Groups need a name. An icon as well as an own colour can be assigned to each group individually.

Groups can be imported and exported.

### 2.3.5 Update

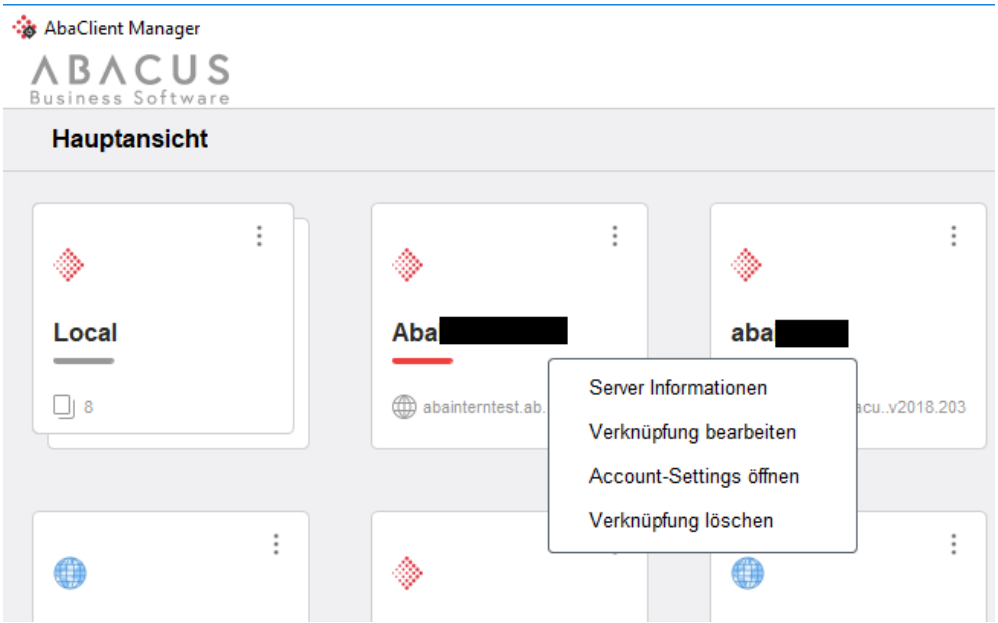
The button "Update" triggers a refresh, which updates and checks the shortcuts/groups as well as the Java cache.

### 2.3.6 Search

AbaClient Manager has a search function. For many links and groups, it can be advantageous to simply search for a search term and present the corresponding search results to the user. This may speed up access to a particular link.

### 2.3.7 Context menu on a tile in the AbaClient Manager

You can access the context menu with a right mouse click on the tile.




#### 2.3.7.1 Server Information

Under the menu item "Server Information" you can check the Abacus version and its patch date. AbaClient gets this information automatically when creating the tile.

#### 2.3.7.2 Edit link

An existing link can be edited here. The same dialog appears as when creating a new shortcut.



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### 2.3.7.3 Open Account Settings

Every Abacus user has his own user account. The user account is accessible in the browser via the URL. The command is identical to the command of the index page of the Abacus server, i.e. with https://servername:port simply add /account to the URL for the account settings.

So the correct URL to access a user's account is: https://servername:port/account

If this menu item is accessed via the context menu, the user account is opened via the internal Chromium Browser.

This is necessary if, for example, the feature "stay logged in" is to be used with the internal Chromium Browser.

If only AbaClient (not Manager) is installed, the user account can also be opened. All you have to do is create an abalink file for the respective server on /account and this will open the user account.

### 2.3.7.4 Delete link

Deletes an existing link.



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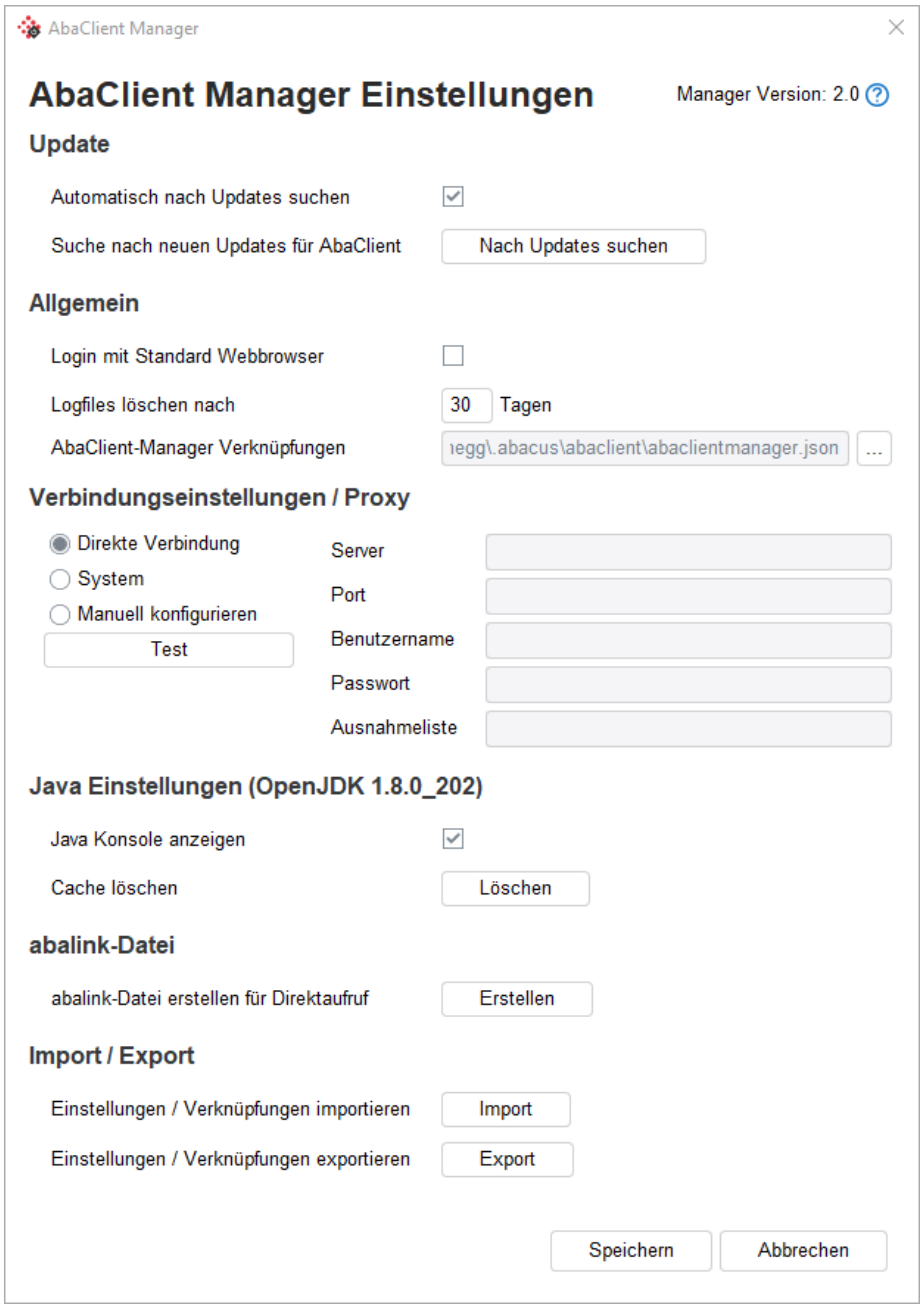
# 3 AbaClient / AbaClient Manager settings

The settings of AbaClient are written into the Windows registry. This has the advantage that in case of software distribution a group policy can be rolled out later which both predefines the settings and also locks them for users.




*Settings AbaClient / AbaClient Manager*

How the settings can be locked and what is possible is described in this KB article: KB-7634



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## 3.1 Settings

### 3.1.1 Automatic update

The automatic update or the check whether an update is available differs depending on whether AbaClient or AbaClient Manager is used.

The check for new updates is performed every 14 days and is identical for both AbaClient and AbaClient Manager.

**AbaClient**

The update check is performed after starting an Abacus-ULC application. This ensures that the update does not delay the start of Abacus.

If an update is found, a corresponding message is displayed the next time AbaClient is started.

**AbaClient Manager**

The update check is performed as soon as the AbaClient-Manager process has been started completely. This ensures that the update does not interfere with the work in the AbaClient-Manager.

If an update is available, this is indicated directly to the user. The user then has the choice to install the update directly or to do this at a later time.

#### 3.1.1.1 Deactivate automatic update

The automatic update is set by default in the settings of AbaClient.

However, this can be disabled at any time by simply removing this setting and saving the settings again.

If AbaClient is rolled out via software distribution and the settings in the registry are distributed via group policy, this setting can also be set globally.

### 3.1.2 Login with standard web browser

AbaClient has an integrated web browser, the Chromium Browser. This is the new default from AbaClient 2.1.

AbaClient can be configured to use the local default web browser to access installations. Using the local standard web browser offers some advantages.

The biggest advantage is certainly the login via SingleSignOn.

If the user has an active session in his web browser, he is directly logged in to Abacus without logging in again.

The user has the possibility to switch to the internal web browser of AbaClient at any time. All that is required is to remove the flag under "Login with standard web browser".

### 3.1.3 Delete log files

AbaClient creates logfiles. These are usually located under C:\Users\username\.abacus\abaclient.

The oldest log files are deleted every 30 days. The value can be adjusted.



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### 3.1.4 AbaClient Manager links

The AbaClient Manager shortcuts are stored in a JSON file. The JSON file is normally located under C:\Users\username\.abacus\abaclient and is called "abaclientmanager.json". From version 2 of AbaClient it is also possible to store this file centrally, so that all users have access to this file and thus the same shortcuts.

### 3.1.5 Proxy

If a proxy must be specified, this can be done here.

Whether the connection works can be checked easily and quickly via the connection test. Make sure that you use a URL for the test that is not blocked or is not allowed in the respective country.

### 3.1.6 Display Java console

If the Java console is activated, a second window appears when Abacus is started in which the Java console is displayed. The Java console provides details for starting Abacus but also when running a program. The Java console is a useful tool for problem analysis.

If a group policy prohibits the user from accessing the settings, the user still has the option to activate the Java console.

### 3.1.7 Delete cache

After executing "Clear Cache" the complete Java cache as well as the browser cache of the internal Chromium Browser will be cleared.

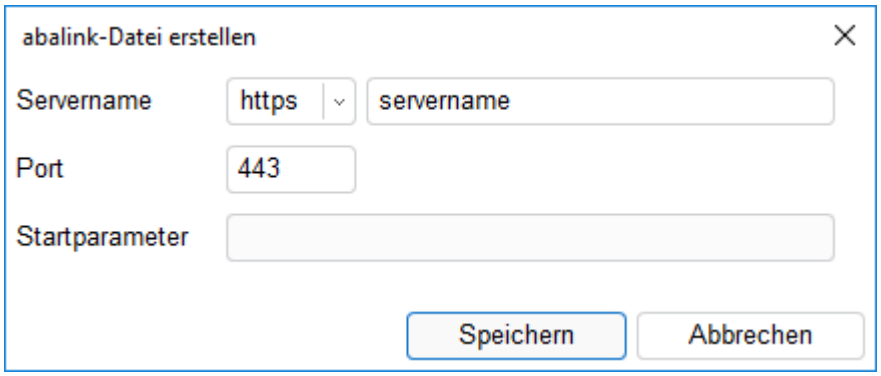
If a group policy prohibits the user from accessing the settings, the user still has the option of deleting the cache.

### 3.1.8 Create abalink file

AbaClient no longer starts Abacus with a JNLP file, but uses its own abalink format. One of the biggest advantages of abalink files is that they can be saved to the desktop or the quick start bar when Abacus starts.

As a result, the user can start Abacus directly via a desktop icon or an icon in the quick start bar and thus lands directly at the login page. With Single-Sign-On, the user is even logged in directly, i.e. without having to enter a user name and password beforehand.

It is also possible to start a program directly within an application via abalink files.



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*AbaClient 2.0 now offers the possibility to create abalink files via a dialog. In addition, abalink files can also be used to start version 2018.*

### 3.1.9 Import settings and links

The settings and links have been separated. The settings can now be imported separately from the shortcuts.

Furthermore AbaClient offers the possibility to import shortcuts created in AbaStart. These are imported into a separate group "AbaStart shortcuts" and can then be dragged and dropped to the main page.

### 3.1.10 Export settings and links

AbaClient settings can be exported. In addition to the settings, the AbaClient Manager shortcuts can also be exported separately.

### 3.1.11 LogFiles

The Logfiles can be found under C:\Users\BENUTZER\.abacus\abaclient



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# 4 Installation

## 4.1 Update AbaClient 1.0 to AbaClient 2.0 in Windows

We recommend uninstalling AbaClient 1.0 before installing AbaClient 2.0. Otherwise you may get duplicate shortcuts.

This is due to the change from 64bit to 32bit and will no longer be necessary in the future.

## 4.2 Standard installation

AbaClient is installed under Windows via an MSI package.

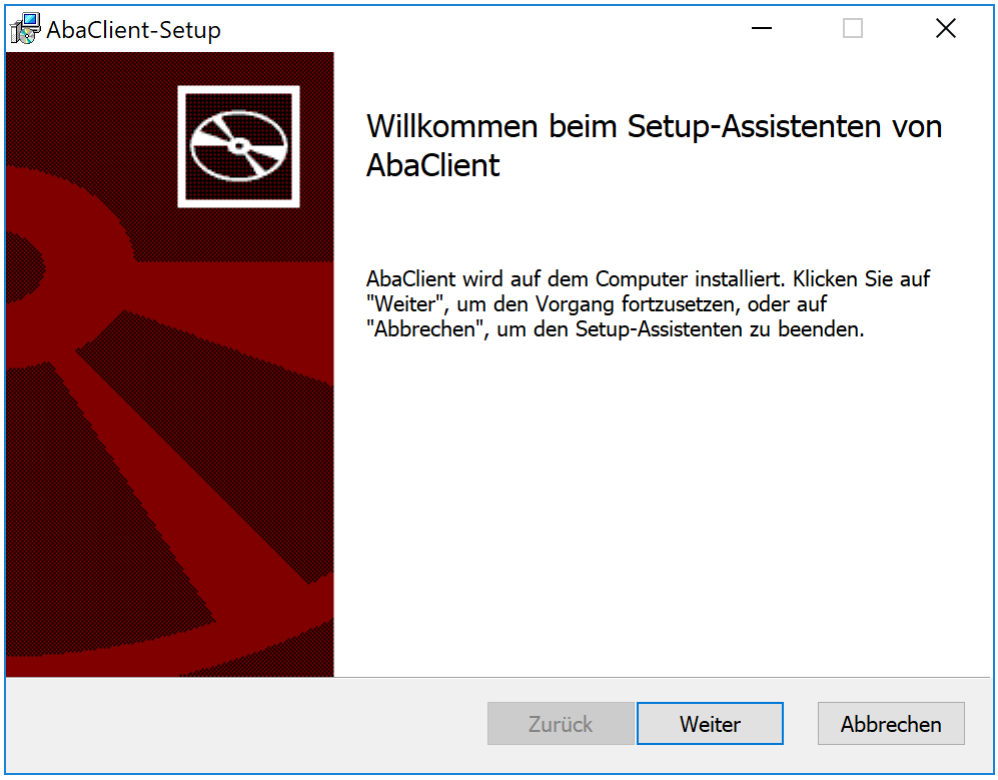
Mac OS versions get the AbaClient as DMG.

Linux distributions can install the client as a .run file.

## 4.3 Installation on Windows

The installation of AbaClient should be as self-explanatory as possible. After the download there is an abaclient-x.x.msi in the download directory of the user.

Administrative rights are required to execute the installation.




*Start the MSI Datei.*



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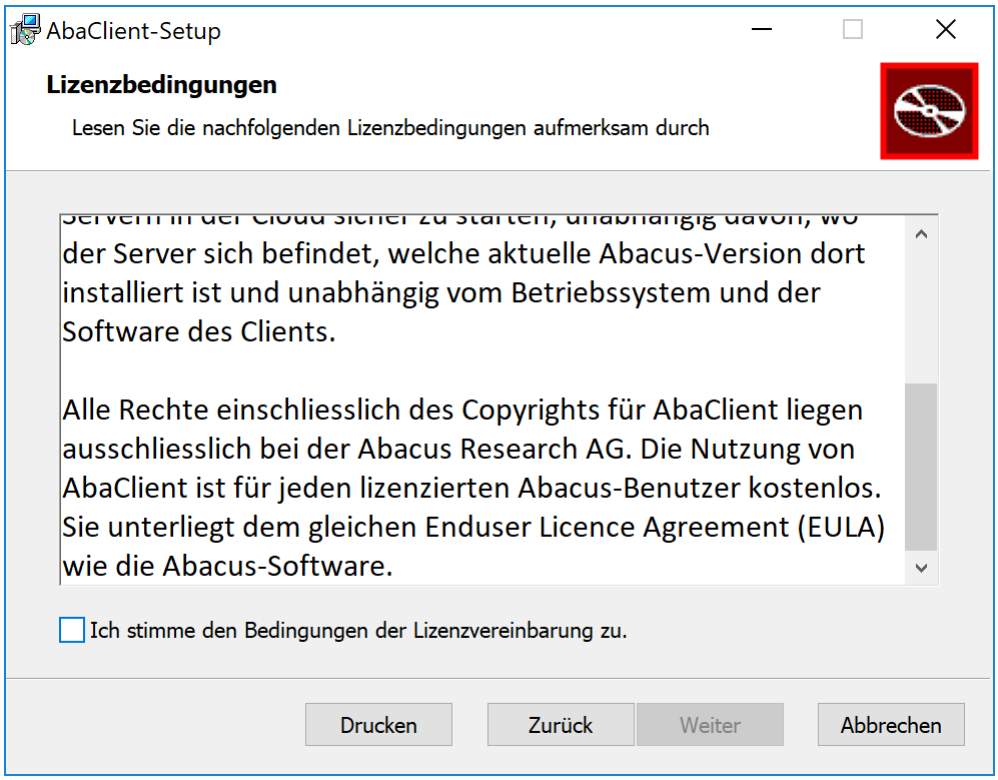
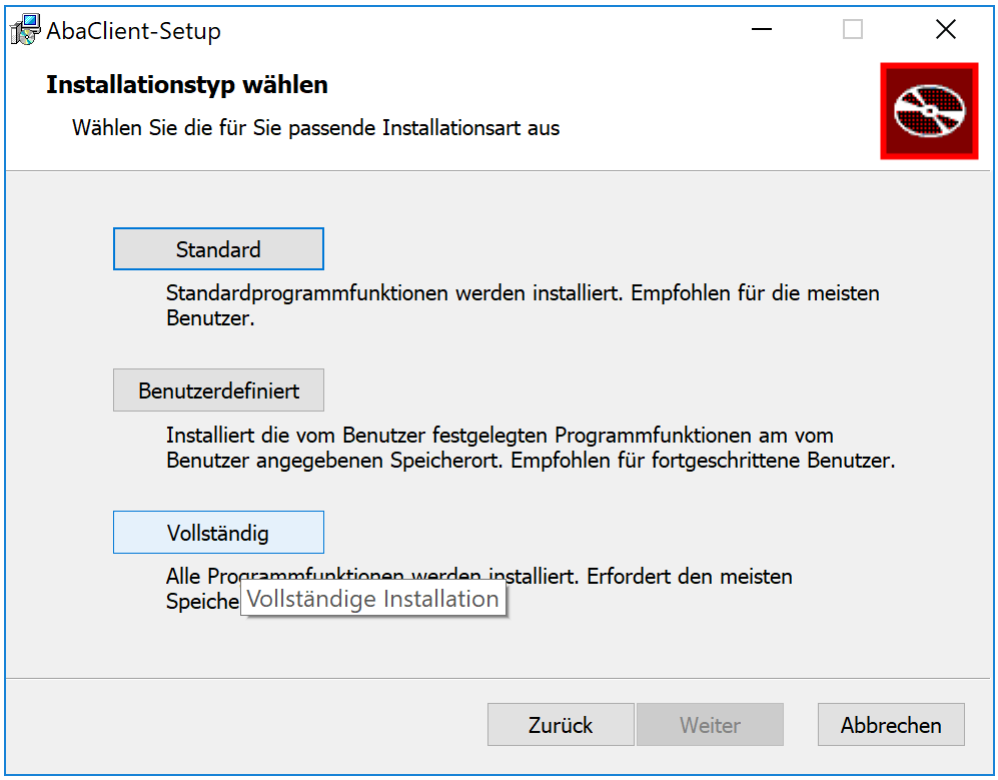



*Read and agree to the license terms if you agree with them.*




*Select installation type:*

*Standard: AbaClient will be installed in the standard version, i.e. without a graphical user interface.*



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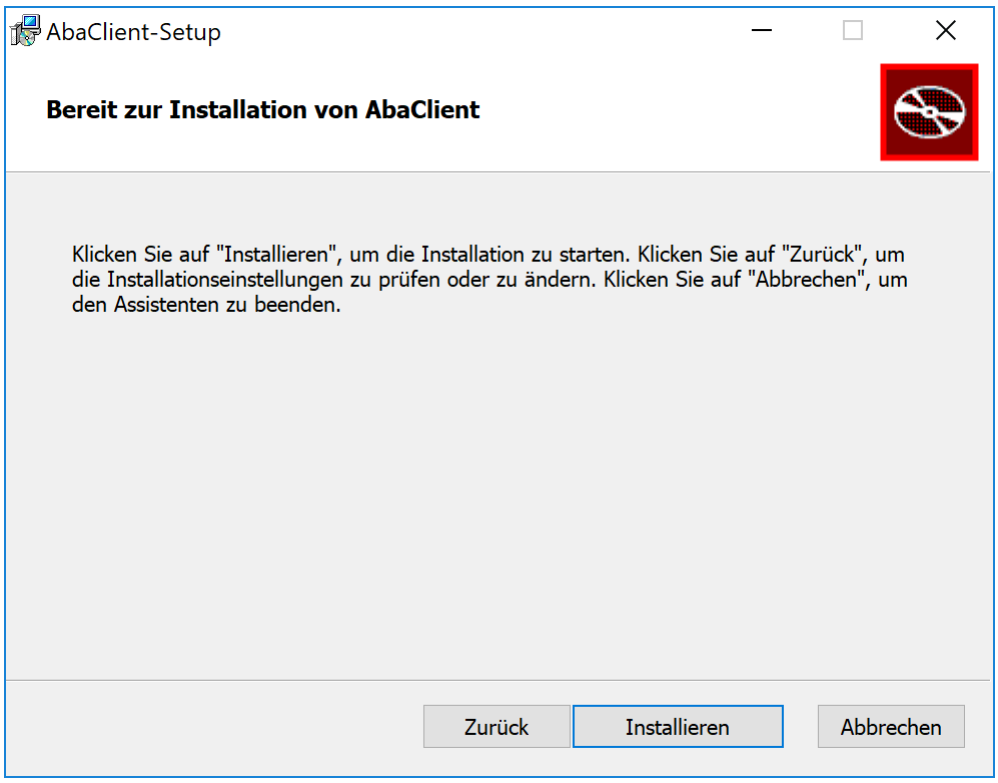
*User-defined: The individual components are available for selection.*
*Complete: AbaClient and AbaClient Manager will be installed.*




*Once the selection has been made, the actual installation can begin.*

### 4.3.1 Installation under Windows Terminal Server

MSI packages can also be easily installed on a Terminal/Citrix server. In order for the Windows registry entries to be written correctly, a terminal server must be set to "installation mode" before installation and then back to the normal mode after installation.

#### 4.3.1.1 Change Terminal Server Installation Mode

There are several ways to put a terminal server into installation mode. This normally happens automatically when a program is added via the "Control Panel/Add or Remove Programs".

If the MSI package should be installed directly, the following command can also be used in the console:

```
change user /install
```

The following command is used to return the terminal server to executing mode, i.e. the standard mode for terminal servers:

```
change user /execute
```

If the installation is executed without the parameter "ALLUSERS", no normal user has access to AbaClient, because the user lacks the rights to the corresponding registry entry.

With the installation method **msiexec /i X:\abaclient_installer_de.msi ALLUSERS=1** the **normal user** also gets read permission to the necessary registry entry.



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## 4.4 Installation under Mac OS

### 4.4.1 Update AbaClient 1.0 to AbaClient 2.0 in Mac OS X

Under Mac OS X, the old version must be removed before installing AbaClient 2.0.

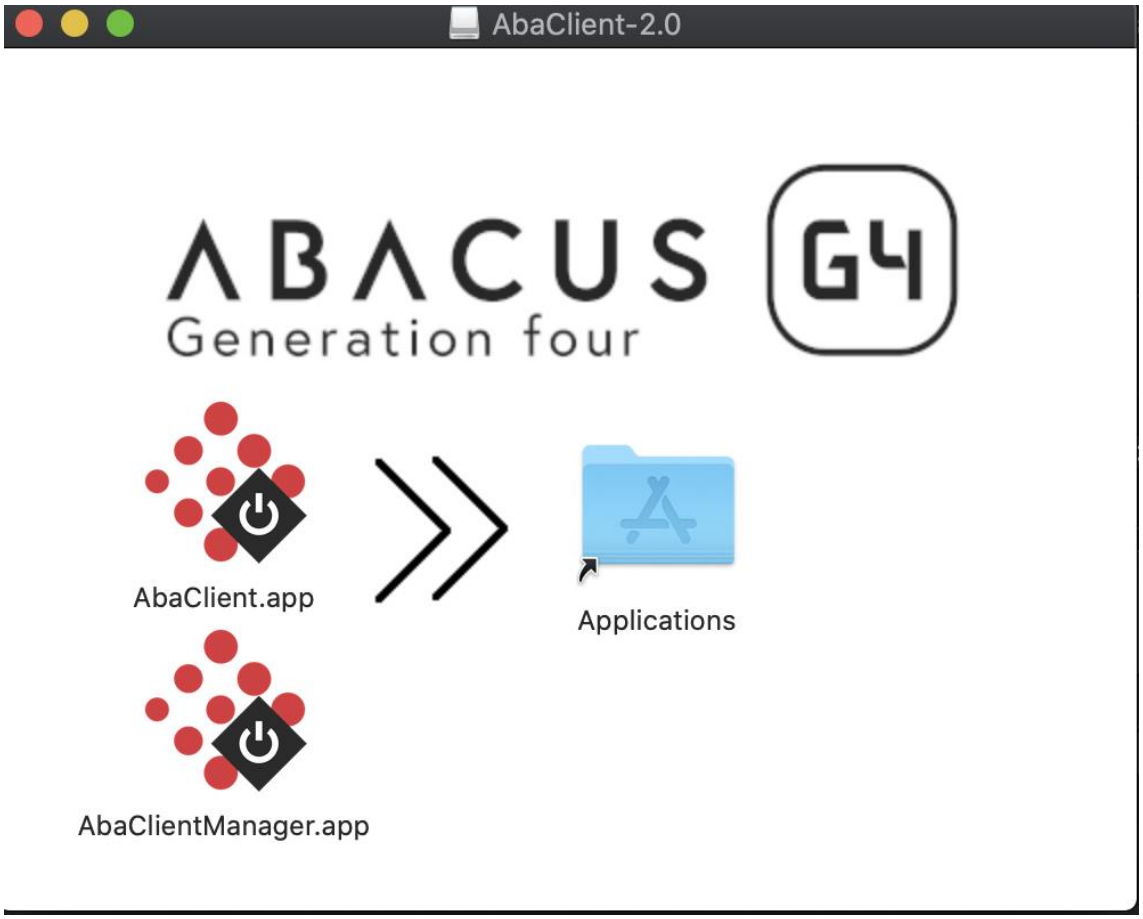
The app can be removed by dragging the app from the application directory to the trash.

### 4.4.2 Installation

After downloading the DMG, the DMG must be integrated as a drive in the Finder. Mac OS X will do this automatically when the DMG is opened.

If the DMG is integrated in the Finder, the start screen is opened. Here you first have to choose which version of AbaClient you want to install. The AbaClient and AbaClient Manager are available for selection as under Windows.

For Mac, not only the manager version but also the standard version of AbaClient is offered.




*Drag the two programs "AbaClient.app" and "AbaClientManager" into the Applications folder. This completes the installation of AbaClient.*



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### 4.4.3 Confirm to open AbaClient

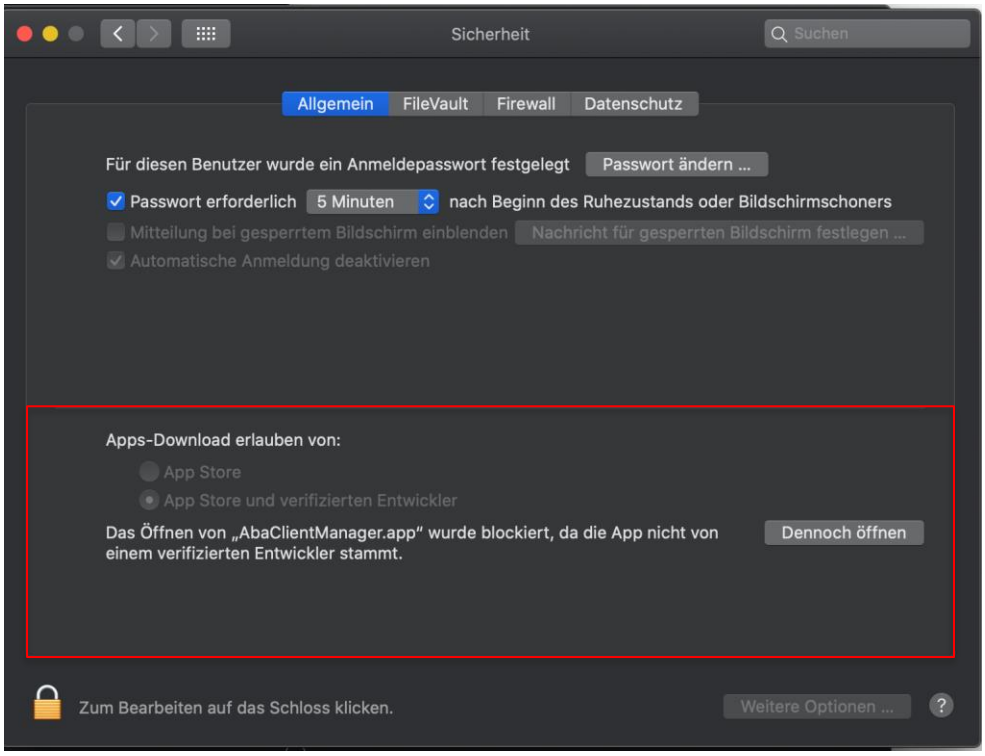
After installation, AbaClient will not start directly. The security regulations have been increased again under macOS Catalina.

When you select and open AbaClient in the programs, the following window will be displayed.

*Notification the first time you open AbaClient.*

Please select "OK" and open the system settings of your macOS.

In the System Preferences under "Security" you can confirm the start of AbaClient.




*In the security settings of macOS you can confirm the start of AbaClient.*



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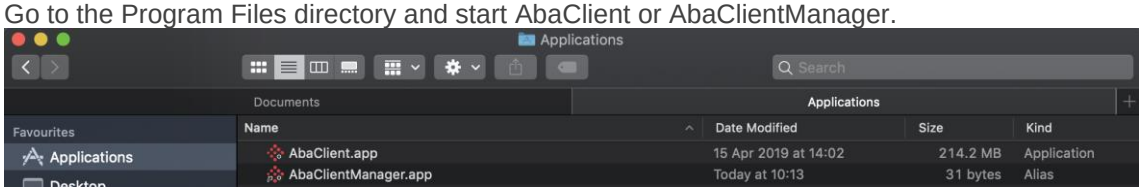
Select "Open anyway".

Go to the Program Files directory and start AbaClient or AbaClientManager.




You can also use the search function in your macOS to enter "abaclient" as search term and start AbaClient like this.

When you restart AbaClient, a window will appear again that needs to be confirmed.

Confirm by selecting "Open". AbaClient will now be started.

## 4.5 Installation with Linux

A .run file is used for the installation under Linux. Once the file has been downloaded, you should check whether the file is executable.

All commands listed below require higher permissions. Normally this is done under Linux with "sudo".



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```
administrator@AbaVM80723-2620:~/Downloads$ ls -la
total 157200
drwxr-xr-x  2 administrator administrator      4096 Nov 29 14:51 .
drwxr-xr-x 19 administrator administrator      4096 Nov 29 09:50 ..
-rw-rw-r--  1 administrator administrator 160960813 Nov 29 14:51 setup_abaclient.run
```

The print screen shows that setup_abaclient.run is currently not executable. If this were the case, the X would be displayed at the last position.

With the command "chmod +x setup_abaclient.run" the file becomes executable. A new check after issuing the command shows that it is now executable.

```
administrator@AbaVM80723-2620:~/Downloads$ sudo chmod +x setup_abaclient.run
administrator@AbaVM80723-2620:~/Downloads$ ls -la
total 157200
drwxr-xr-x  2 administrator administrator      4096 Nov 29 14:51 .
drwxr-xr-x 19 administrator administrator      4096 Nov 29 09:50 ..
-rwxrwxr-x  1 administrator administrator 160960813 Nov 29 14:51 setup_abaclient.run
```

To start the setup, the file only needs to be executed. This can be done via

"sudo ./setup_abaclient.run".

```
administrator@AbaVM80723-2620:~/Downloads$ sudo ./setup_abaclient.run
Verifying archive integrity...  100%   All good.
Uncompressing Installer AbaClient  100%
Copying program files to /usr/lib/abaclient...
Creating links...
Installing application links...
Updating mime types...
All done.
```

After the installation AbaClient as well as AbaClient Manager are ready for use.



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# 5 Software distribution

## 5.1 Distribution of AbaClient via software distribution

AbaClient can easily be distributed to Windows clients via software distribution.
If AbaClient should not simply be distributed as a default installation, a response file, an MST file, can also be created for the MSI. Using the MST file, parameters can be added to the setup.

For example, it is very easy to configure that AbaClient-Manager should not create a desktop shortcut on the clients.

## 5.2 Software Distribution Guide

You can find a description of software distribution on our Knowledge Base at the following KB article: KB-7503

If the settings of AbaClient should also be globally defined and the user should not be allowed to access his or her own settings, this can be done via Group Policies. A description of software distribution can be found in our Knowledge Base at the following KB article: KB-7634



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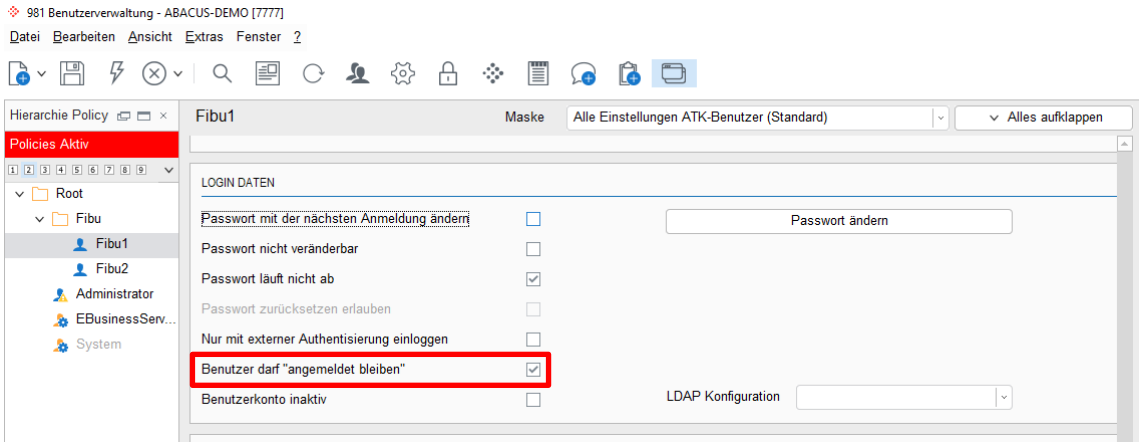
# 6 Stay logged in

The auto login is no longer available starting from version 2018, which is why the "Stay logged in" function has been introduced.

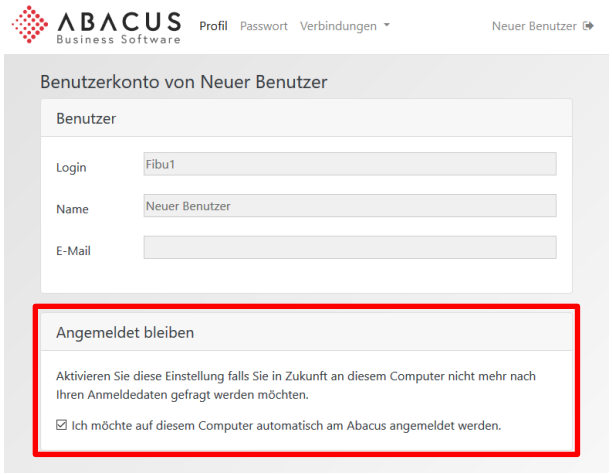



*User administration - Flag "User may stay logged in" is a prerequisite for using "Stay logged in" and must be set per user.*

### Warning

In order for a user to benefit from "Stay logged in", he or she must have the appropriate rights in the user administration.

The function is therefore initially activated on the user. The flag can be found under "LOGIN DATA" and means "User may remain logged in". This can also be allocated to several or all users in global modifications.




*User account - "Stay logged in"*

If this flag is active, a user can activate the flag "I want to be automatically logged into Abacus on this computer" in his or her user account. If the flag is activated a "cookie" will be saved on the browser. This cookie identifies the user. This means staying logged in is specific to a browser.



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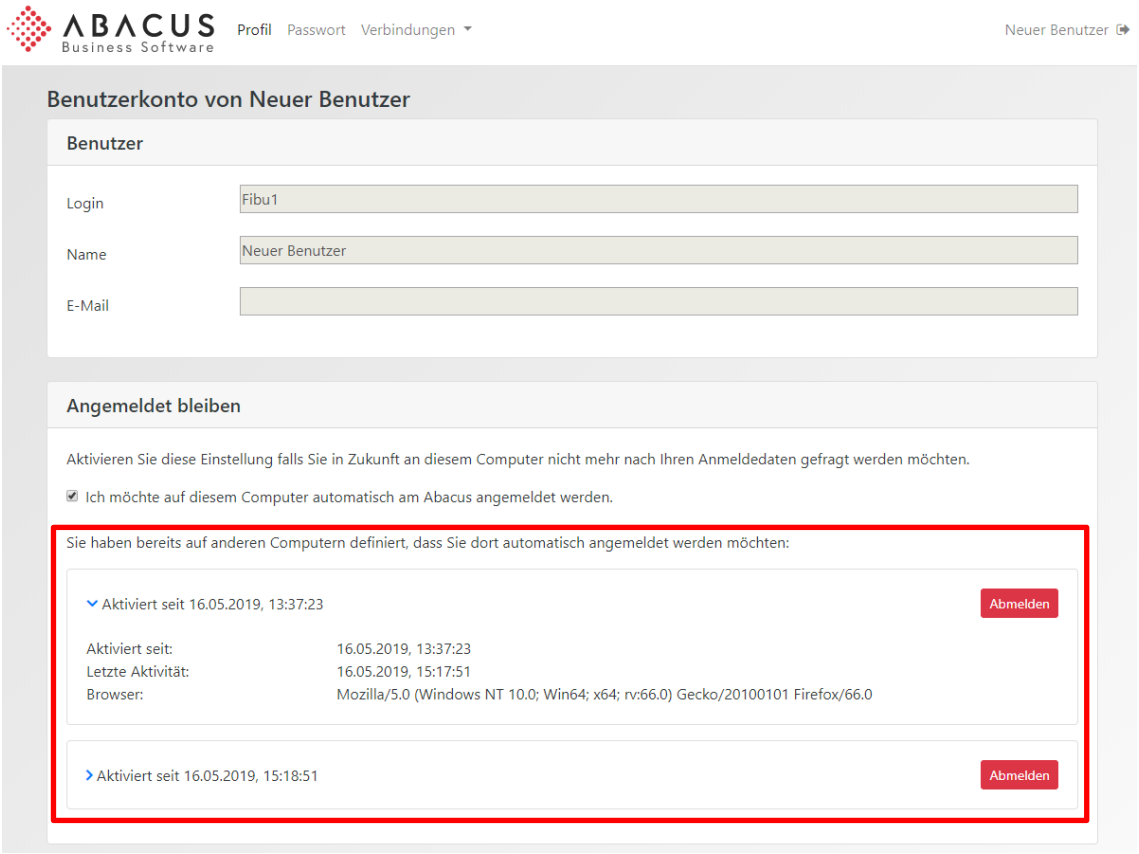


*Stay logged on has been activated on several browsers*

If the "Stay logged in" flag has been activated on multiple computers or on multiple browsers, all active "Stay logged in" sessions are also displayed in the user profile.

By clicking on Logout, "Stay logged in" is automatically deactivated again.

## Note

The "stay logged in" setting is active on the specific computer in the respective browser on which the user account page was opened.

This cookie becomes invalid when:

- the "Logout" button in the Abacus user profile is clicked.
- the automatic login is deleted in the Abacus user profile.
- when "Logout" is clicked on in the portal.
- the cookies are deleted in the browser.



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### Check list

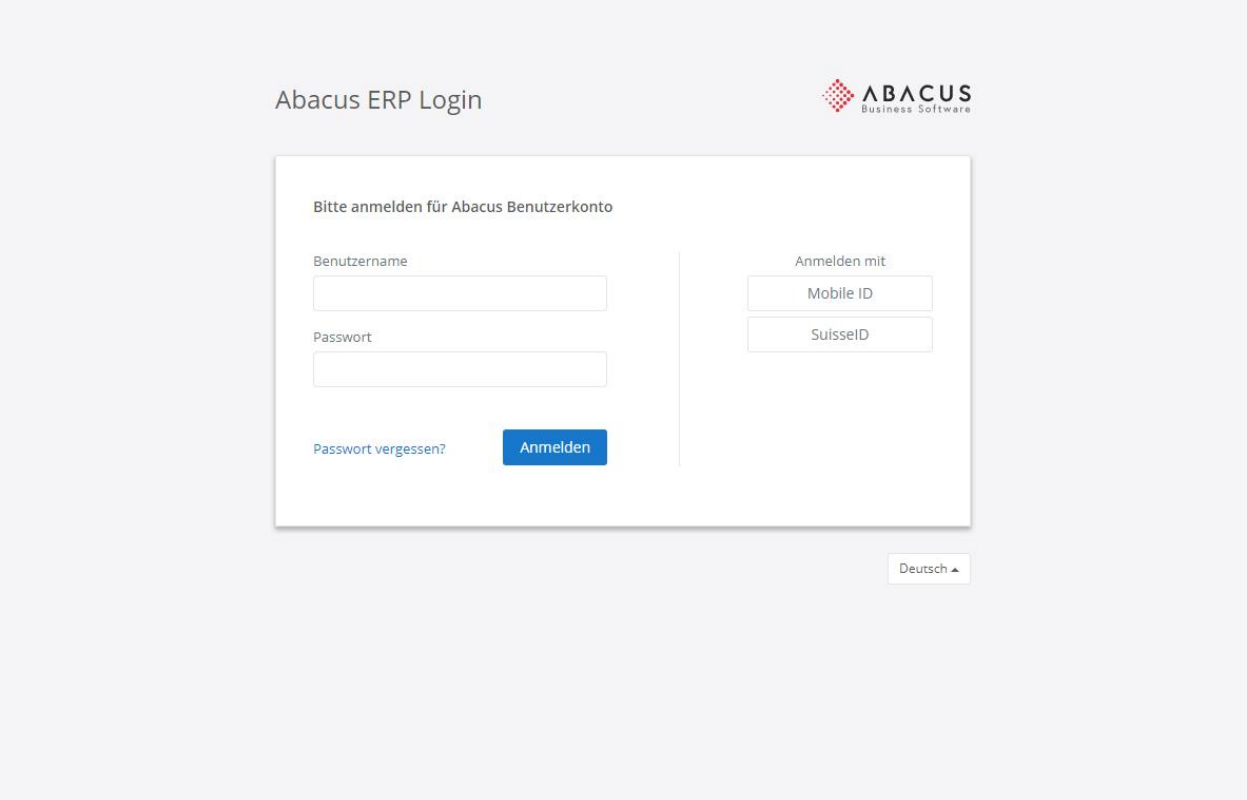
- ☐ User - Set the flag "User may remain logged in" in the user administration for the user.
- ☐ Login to the user account (/account)
- ☐ Under Profile - Logged in, leave the flag "I want to be automatically logged in to Abacus on this computer" set.

## 6.1 Stay logged in for AbaClient (Manager)

To use the feature "Stay logged in" also via the internal Chromium browser in AbaClient, the user account can be accessed via the context menu on a tile.

The user account can be opened directly via "Open Account Settings". There you can activate "Stay logged in" in three steps.

1. Log in with user name and password.




*You will be prompted for a username/password first.*



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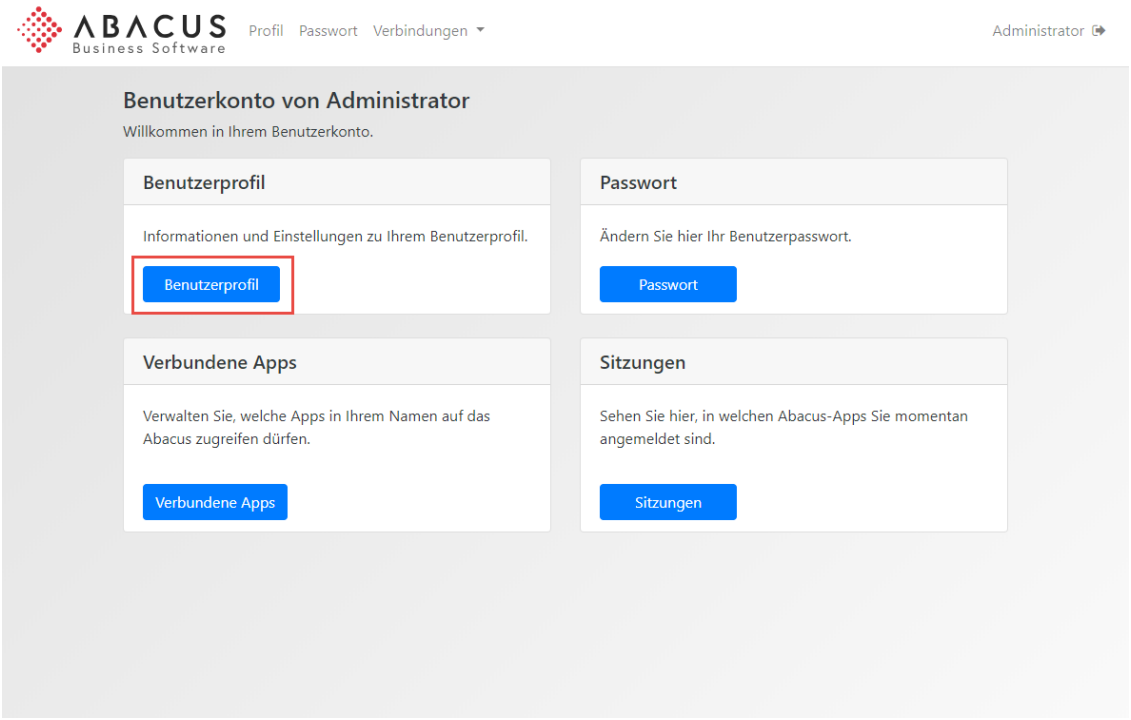
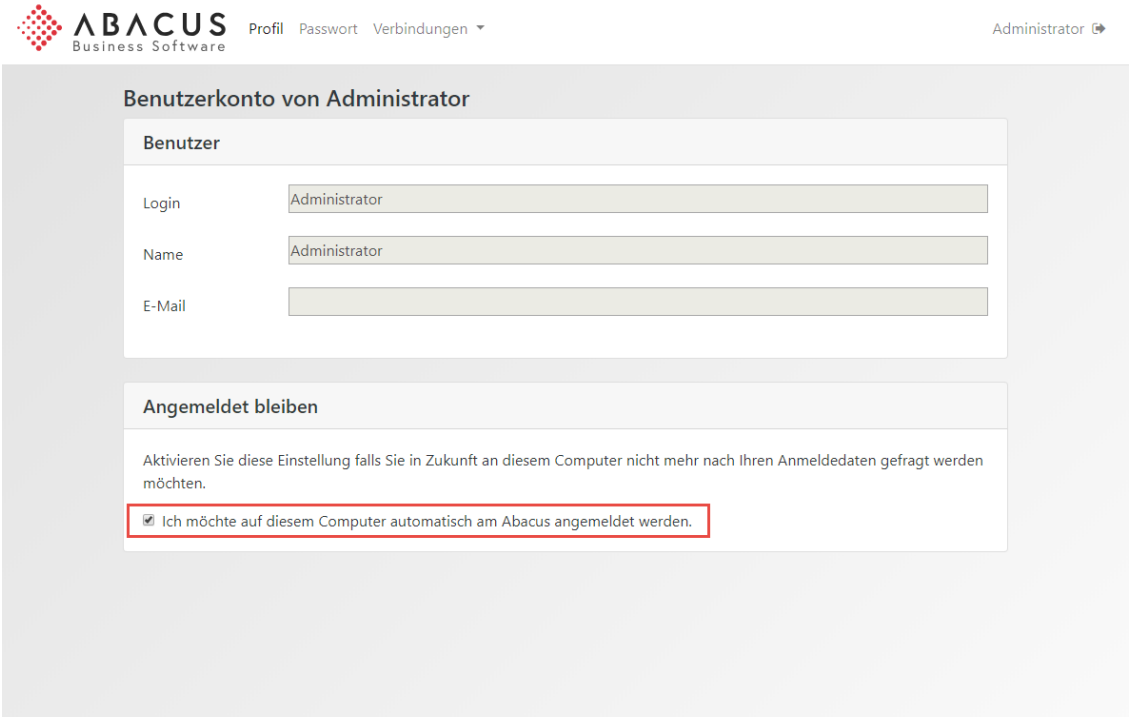
2. Select the "User profile" button.




*Via "User profile" the user can access the setting "Stay logged in".*

3. Activate "I want to be automatically logged into Abacus on this computer".




*By activating this function, the user does not have to enter a user or password to open this Abacus installation. He or she will be logged in automatically.*



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### 6.1.1 Do not log out after "Stay logged in" has been activated

If "Stay logged in" has been activated, the user must not log out using the icon at the top right. A logout also means that the just activated setting for "Stay logged in" is deleted again.

## 6.2 AbaClient (not Manager)

For AbaClient it is also possible to use "Stay logged in". For this an abalink file with the URL https://servername:port/account must be created. This can be created via the settings of AbaClient.

If the abalink file is started, the procedure is identical to the procedure described above for AbaClient Manager.



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