

StarForce Audio/Video. Working with protected media files. End user guide

Purpose

This document is designed for end users of audio and video files protected with StarForce Audio/Video and describes the activation and deactivation of the protected files.

The document describes how to work with the player that is included in the archive with the protected files. If you received the protected files without the player, contact the product publisher.

Running the files

1. Make sure that the folder with the protected documents is unpacked (usually it is supplied in a zip archive).
2. Run the VideoPlayer file in the folder with the protected files:

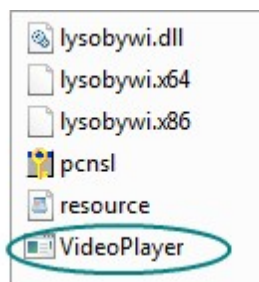


Fig. 1. Folder with the protected files

Codecs should be installed on your computer for the protected video or audio files to play back. If there are no codecs, the files do not play back. The Player may prompt you to install the required codecs if the product publisher has included the codec installer into the archive with the protected files.

If the Player does not install the codecs and the files do not play back, contact the publisher of your product, or install a codec pack. You can find the codecs by searching for 'codec' or 'codec pack'; otherwise, you can download them, for example, here: https://www.codecguide.com/download_kl.htm.

The Player

The Player of the protected media files has a standard interface with navigation buttons (**Play**, **Stop**, **Full screen**, **Mute**, etc.).

The protected file(s) starts playing back after you run the Player.

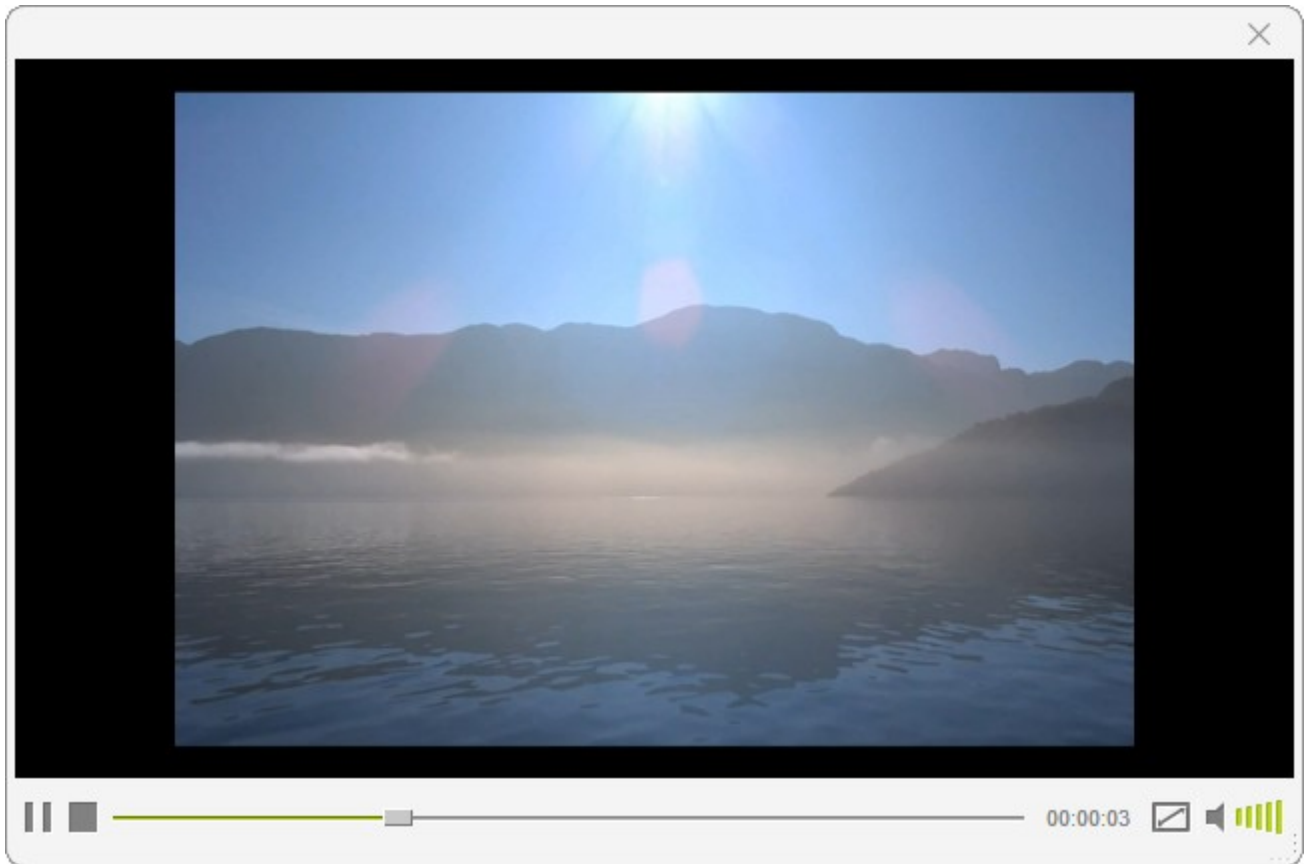


Fig. 2. Playing back a single video file

When you play back audio files, the area with the video is hidden:

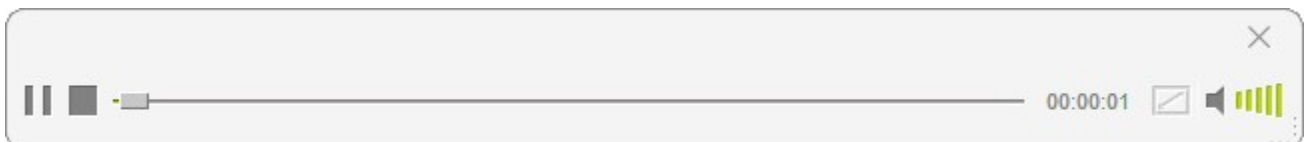


Fig. 3. Playing back an audio file

If the publisher has protected several files, the Player features the playlist and additional buttons (**Repeat**, **Random**, **Playlist**, **Previous track**, and **Next track**):

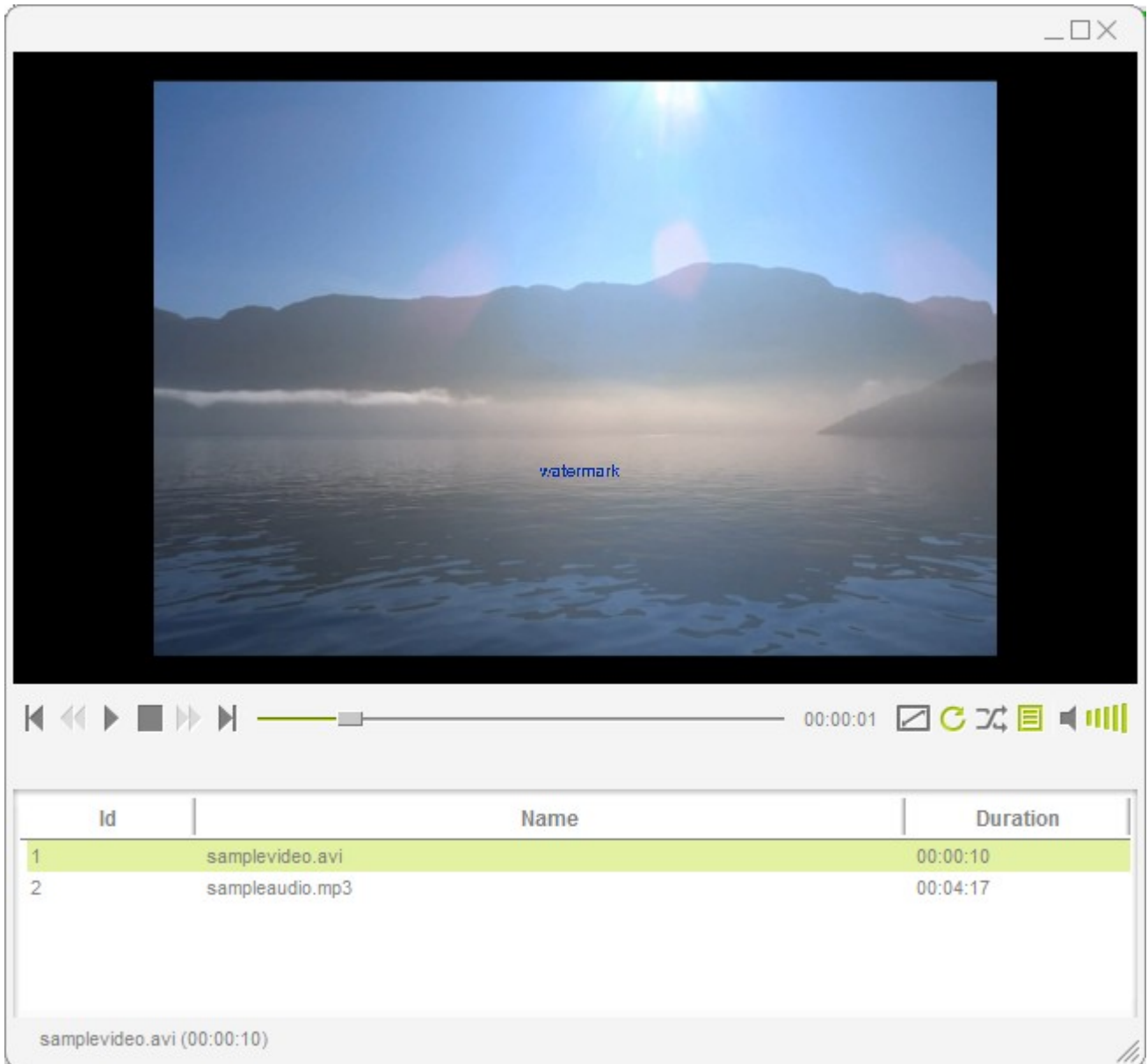
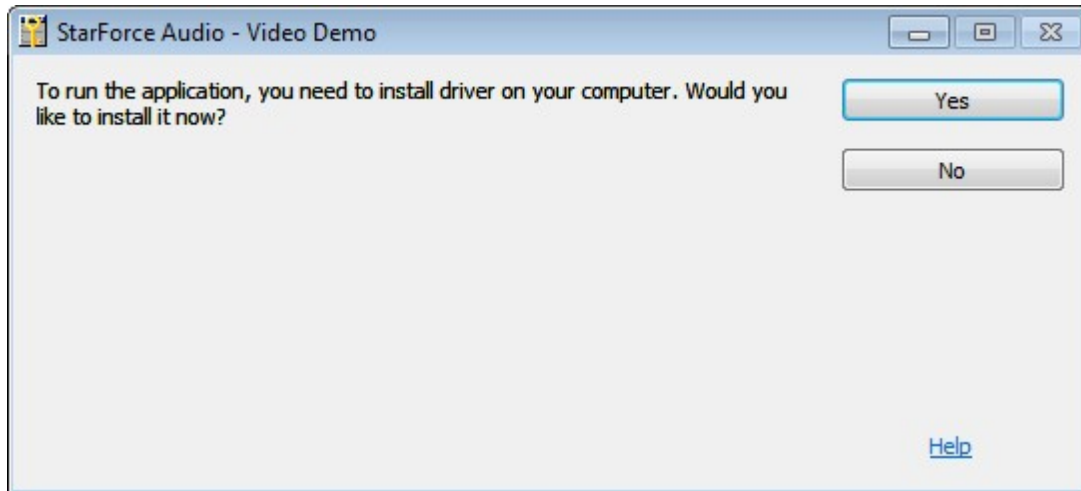


Fig. 4. The Player with several protected files and a watermark

Activating the files

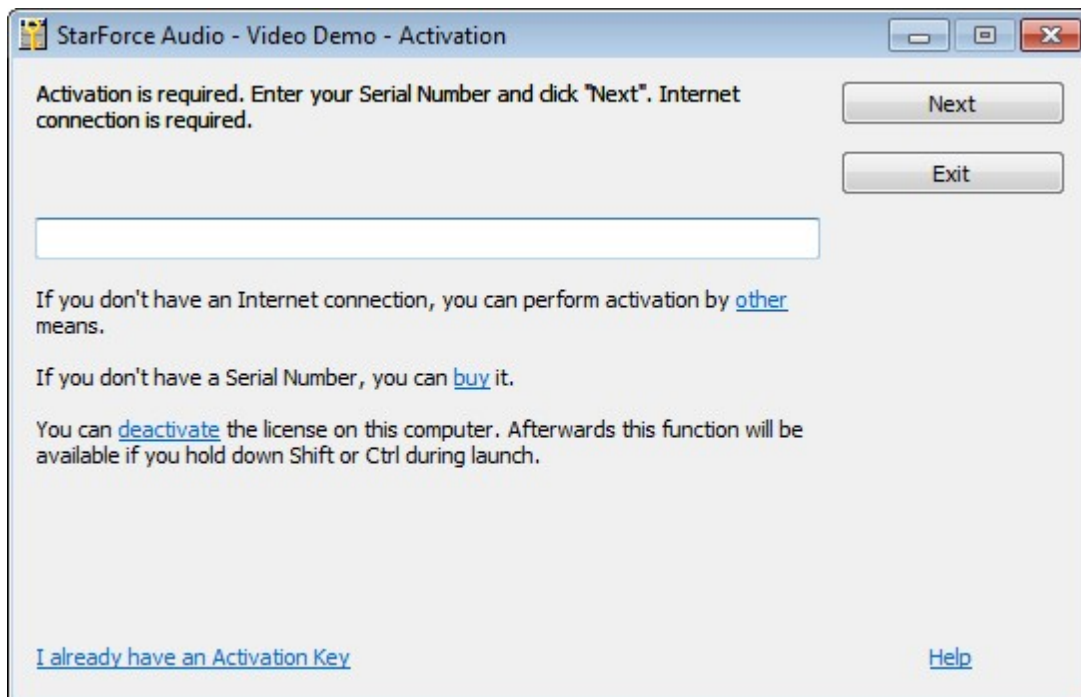
Activation runs when you run the protected Player for the first time. Activation binds the protected files to the software and hardware configuration of your computer. Therefore, reactivation may be required after program re-installation or hardware modification. The number of activations is limited.

After you run the Player, it displays the message requiring protection driver installation (see [figure](#)). The driver is necessary for the protected files to operate properly. It is used by the system only when the files are running, and performs no additional operations.

**Fig. 5. Installing the driver**

You can decline driver installation; however, the protected file will not play back without the installed protection driver. After you click **No** in the window above, the protection system shuts down.

After you click **Yes**, a message requiring document activation is displayed:

**Fig. 6. Activation**

You can find the serial number in an email from the product publisher (the file sender); otherwise, it is in an attached text file. Enter the serial number and click **Next**:

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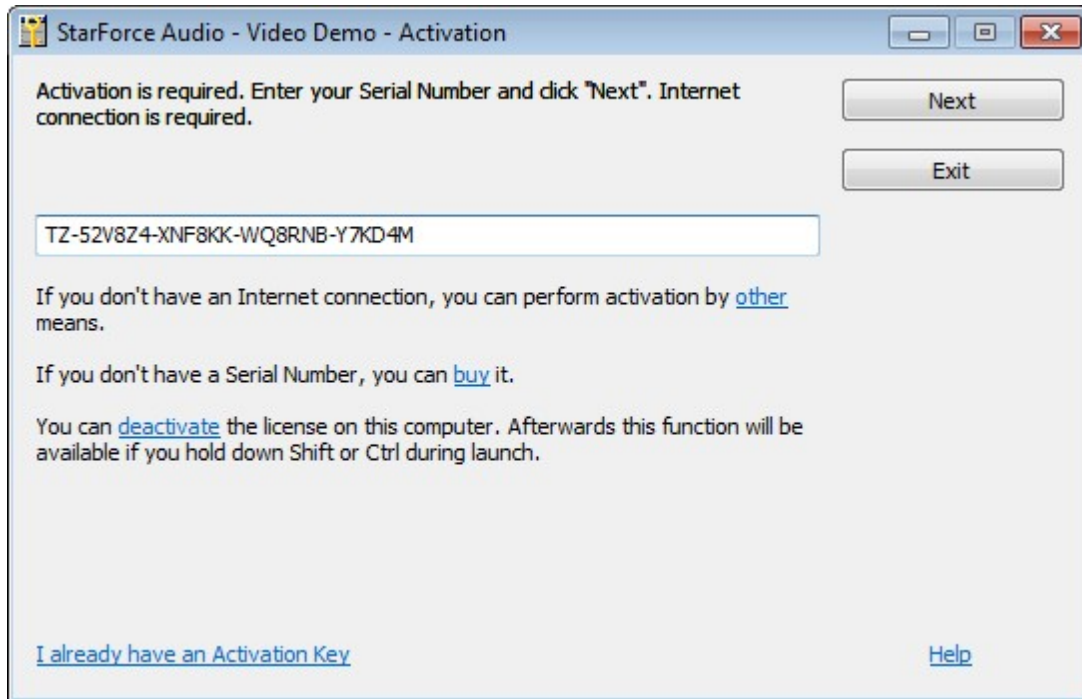


Fig. 7. Serial number input

After the file is successfully activated, the displayed message contains information about the license parameters:

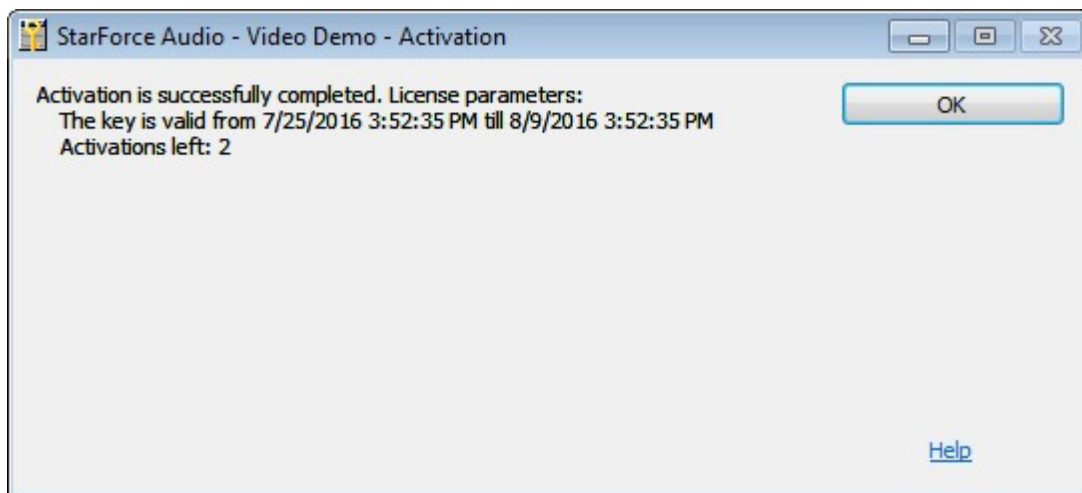


Fig. 8. The file is activated

Click **OK** to run the file.

When you run the protected files next time, no activation is required; you just need to run the Player (the VideoPlayer file).

If there is no Internet connection, you can activate the files manually. To do so, click the **other** link in the activation window (see [above](#)) and follow the displayed instructions:

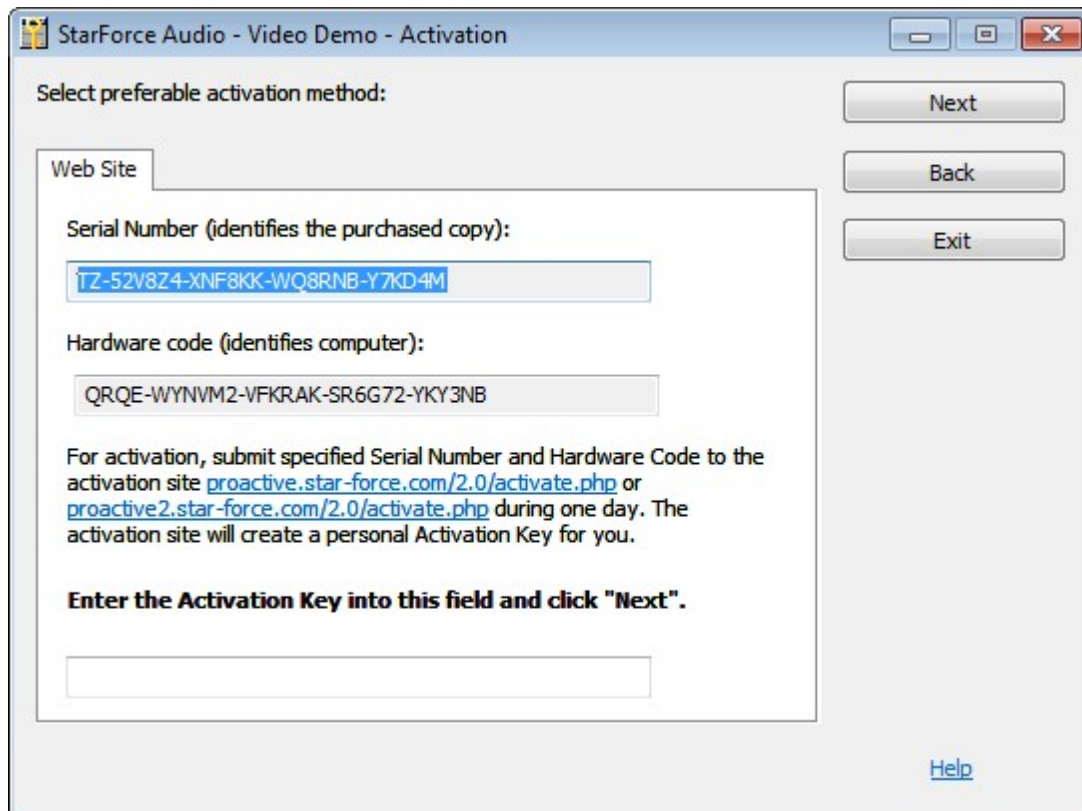


Fig. 9. Manual activation

Attention! To use automatic activation as described above, firewalls and other programs that control the Internet activity of the applications on the computer and/or in local network should not block the connection on TCP port 80.

Deactivating the files

Deactivation allows you to transfer a file protected with binding to computer to another computer while preserving the license and its parameters (unspent number of runs, the remaining license lifetime, etc.), so that no serial number activation is lost. You can also use deactivation when you change the configuration of your computer.

It is the product publisher who chooses to enable deactivation

The transfer is performed as follows.

- 1) file deactivation;
- 2) file reactivation (i.e. running the file with the use of the serial number).

You can perform deactivation several times until the license limits for the product usage are spent according to some parameters (e.g. lifetime, number of runs, etc.).

Run the executable file of the protection system (pcnsl) and select **Activate or deactivate product** in the **Console** window:

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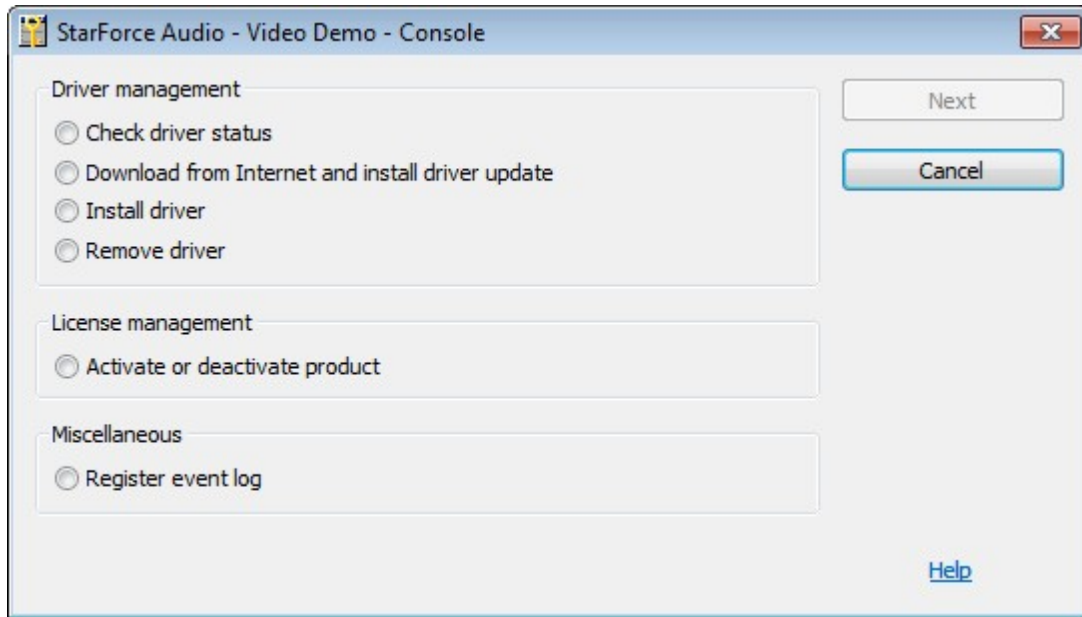


Fig. 10. Pcnsl.exe GUI

Click **deactivate** in the displayed window (the serial number used to activate the file is indicated in the window by default):

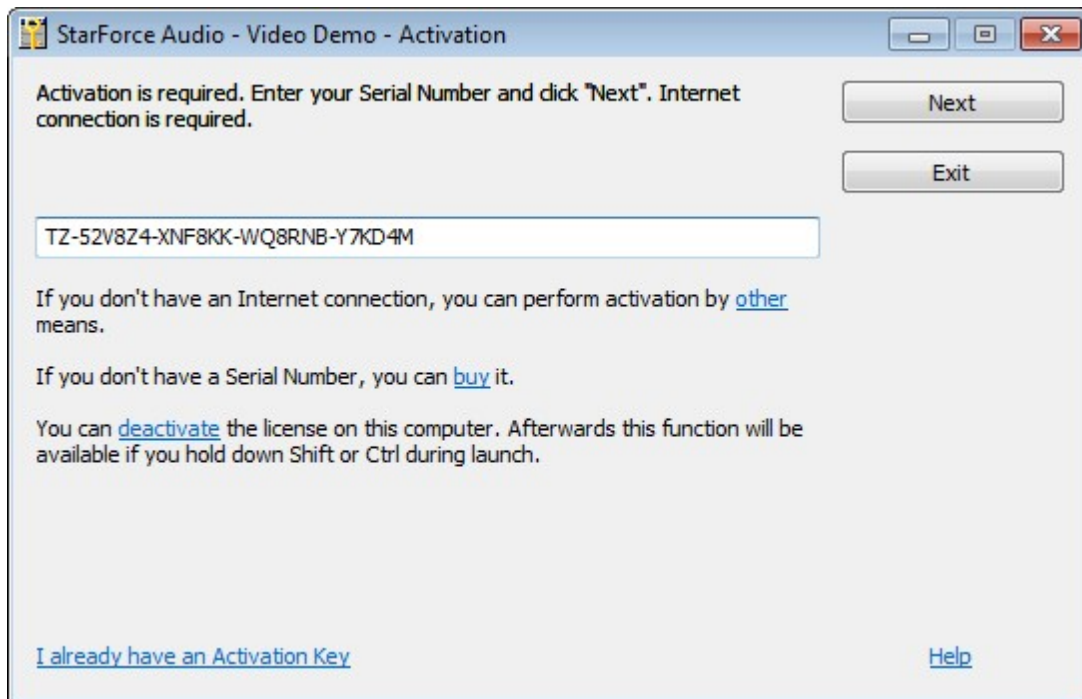
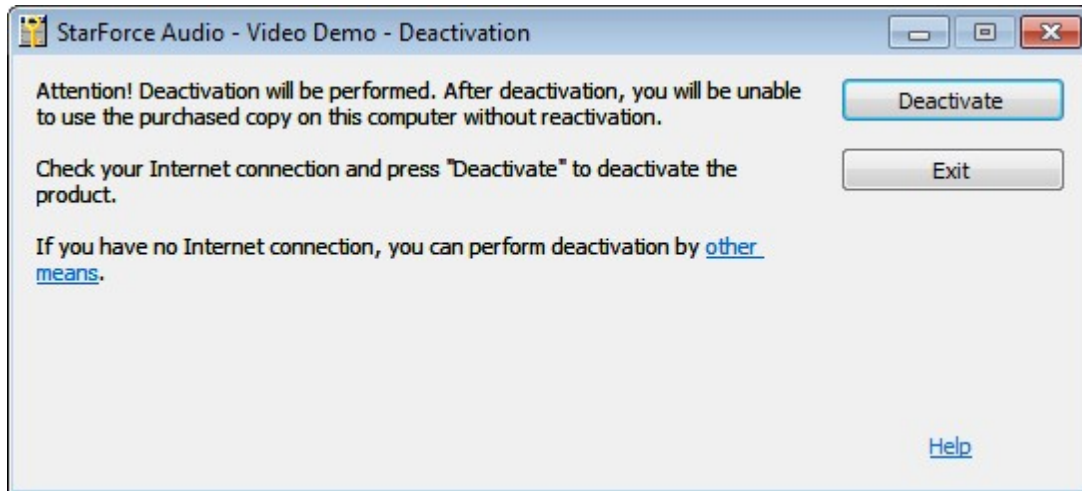
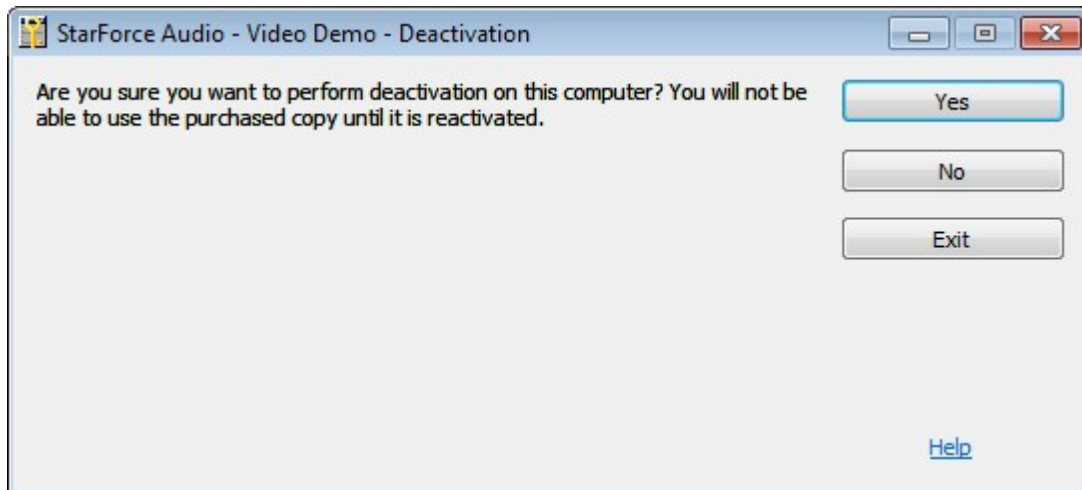


Fig. 11. Activation window for a previously activated file

After you click **deactivate**, the window requesting deactivation confirmation is displayed:

**Fig. 12. Deactivation confirmation (1)**

After you click **Deactivate**, the following message appears:

**Fig. 13. Deactivation confirmation (2)**

Attention! The product is actually deactivated on the computer right after the deactivation confirmation. After the file is successfully deactivated, the following message is displayed:

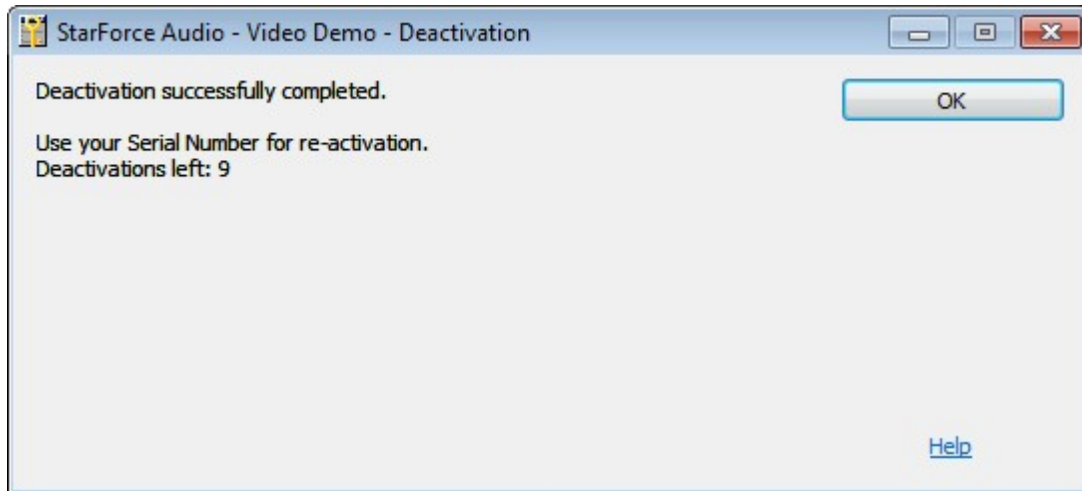


Fig. 14. The file is deactivated

Click **OK** to complete automatic deactivation. The product will now only be available after the reactivation (similar to activation).

If there is no Internet connection, you can deactivate the file manually. To do so, click **other** in the window with deactivation confirmation (see [above](#)). Follow the instructions in the displayed window to register deactivation on the server:

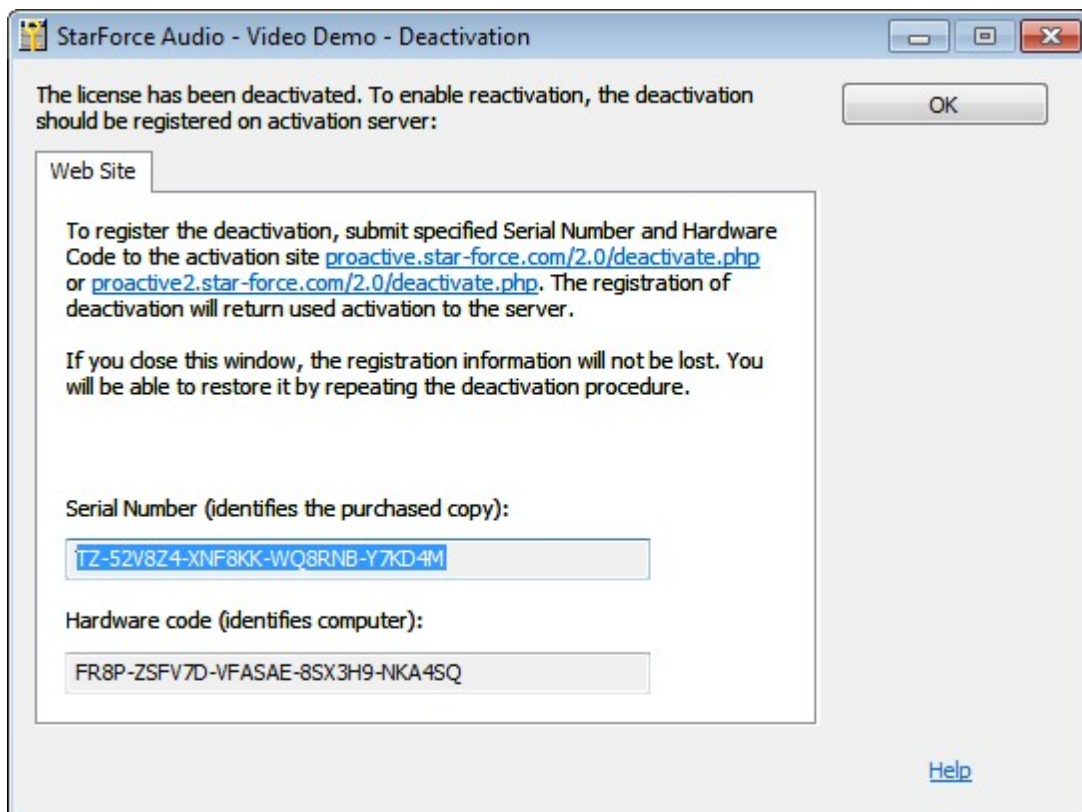


Fig. 15. Manual deactivation

If you could not complete the deactivation process for some reason, you can repeat it to register deactivation on the server. To do so, run file deactivation as described above. After the deactivation confirmation, the window requesting to repeat the deactivation registration is displayed:

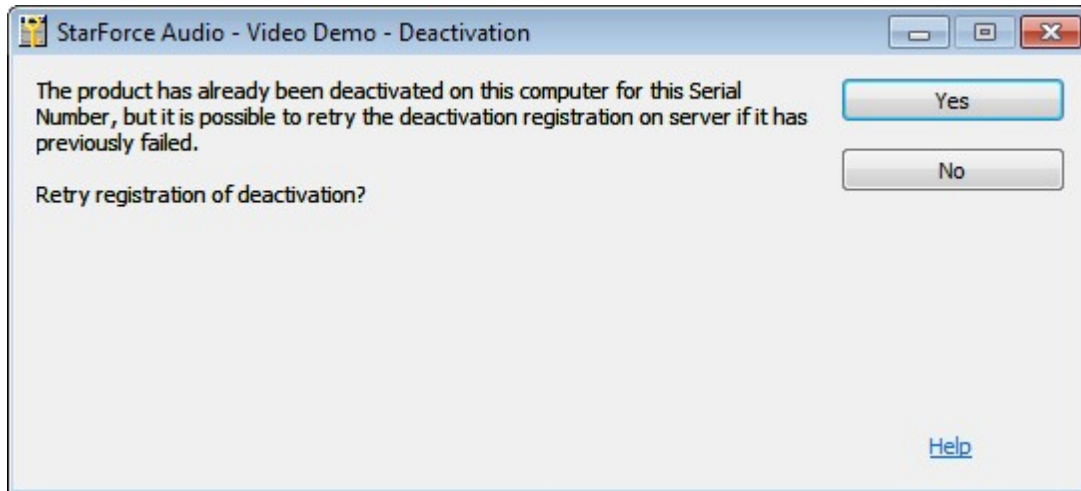


Fig. 16. Deactivation retry

After the confirmation, the above-mentioned process to register deactivation begins.