AutoShop System Requirements

Microprocessor:
Recommended: Intel Quad core I5, I7 or Xenon 3.0+ GHZ
Minimum: Intel Core 4 Quad processor / AMD 6300 or better or Intel I5 Processor
Not Recommended: Intel Celeron and I3 or similar processors

RAM:

Server	Recommended	Minimum
Server 2012	16 GB	8 GB
Server 2003	8 GB	4 GB But not recommended
Server 2008	16 GB	8 GB
Windows 7 64bit	8 GB	6 GB
Windows 7 32bit	3 GB	2 GB But not recommended
Windows 8 64bit	8 GB	6 GB
Windows 8 32bit	3 GB	2 GB But not recommended
Windows 10 64bit	16 GB	8 GB
Windows XP	2 GB	1 GB But not recommended

Workstations
Windows 7 (64bit)   8GB   6 GB Windows 8 (64bit)   8GB   6 GB Windows 10 64bit 8 GB 6 GB Windows XP   2 GB   1 GB But not recommended

Graphics
1 GB Graphics Card
3rd Party Software

Current Version Adobe Reader   Current Version Adobe Flash Player

Operating System:
Workstation: Windows 7 (64 bit, Home Premium or Higher), Windows 8 (64 bit, Home Premium or Higher), Windows 10 (64 bit, Home Premium or Higher)
Not Recommended: Windows 8RT, Windows 7 Basic or Home Basic, Windows Vista, and XP

Server: Windows 2008R2 and 2012
Not Recommended: Windows 2003 and 2008 Small Business Edition Server

For 5 user and smaller systems: Gigabit Local Area Network with Gigabit Network Cards installed into PCs or laptops.

For 5 user and larger systems: Remote Desktop Services strongly recommended. (Please see the Networking section for more information.)

Backup System:

Backup Media options include external hard drives, Flash drives, CDRW's (requires CD burning software). For various technical reasons, our top recommendation is to use a USB flash drive. In most cases we do not recommend using a tape drive as the sole backup medium.

No matter which backup media you choose, you will want to **back up regularly** -- we recommend doing it daily, as part of your End of Day processing. Ideally, you will have a number of backup drives (multiple USB drives), which you can rotate, taking them home at night and bringing the next day's drive in to the shop in the morning. This is insurance for your data, in case of fire or theft.

Networking:

There are two major networking options today: Peer to Peer networking and Client/Server or "Thin Client" networking.

Peer to Peer Networking - Peer to Peer networking can be used for networking up to 5user licenses with 1 GB network.

The benefit using Peer to Peer networking is that it is relatively easy to set up and maintain using any operating system, depending on how the network and workstations are set up.

The impact using Peer to Peer networking is that constant access to databases across the network in AutoShop (as well as other applications) may slow down system performance over time as more data is added to the databases and more users are accessing the same databases. More users accessing an application and the databases in an application may result in slower network performance. The cost of maintenance for hardware is spread across all the workstations in the network as well.

Client/Server "Thin Client" Networking - Client/Server networking can be used for networking 5 or more user licenses.

The benefit of using Client/Server networking is that when AutoShop is operating on three or more workstations at a time using either Microsoft Remote Desktop Services (Formerly Terminal Services) licensing (which you can purchase directly from Microsoft, a Microsoft product distributor or Dell) OR an alternate Thin Client solution, the performance and operation of the network and applications running across the network will be enhanced. This method of networking is highly recommended and, in some cases, required for larger operations. This method is also recommended for using applications in tablet and wireless networking scenarios. If the wireless connection goes down, you will not risk corruption of the data traveling through the connection. The connection is also very fast and reliable.

The impact of using Client/Server networking does carry an initial cost to it in terms of setting up the server. However, once the server and workstations are set up, the cost is

actually less in terms of only maintaining the server and not maintaining each workstation as heavily as needed in a Peer to Peer network.

Wireless Networking

Wireless networking is not recommended in an automotive repair facility due to the heavy radio interference (RFI) that occurs in this environment. Wireless networking can be achieved by using Wireless N or better Gigabit network cards **and** using Wireless N or better Gigabit routers **using remote access**. If a wireless connection is necessary, it **should not be used** with Peer to Peer networking; only with client server using a remote desktop/terminal services configuration.

Network Hardware (For Hard Wired Networking)

1 GB network (NIC) card and or better 1 GB network routers or better Category 5e or better network cable

Anti-Virus Software:

When purchasing Anti-Virus software note that all Anti-Virus software has the ability of restricting the AutoShop program from its full functionality. When running your Anti-Virus software note that we do not recommend "Internet Security" type packages that do scanning, firewalls, e-mail scanning, etc. They are typically too restrictive and will need multiple adjustments to allow AutoShop applications to run properly. AVG Anti-Virus has worked well for many users, however, "Webroot Antivirus" and Kaperski Antivirus have frequently falsely identified AutoShop programs as viruses and prevented them from running. We also do not recommend Avast Antivirus as we believe it is linked to system lockups with our software.

Incompatible Software