

# MRC Holland Support

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## Is it possible to run multiple Coffalyser.Net Servers on one computer?

This article was retrieved from [support.mrcholland.com](http://support.mrcholland.com) on Sunday, 11th May 2025.

### Note

This article is intended for advanced users in a professional network environment. See [this article](#) for more general information about advanced setups of Coffalyser.Net. For clarity, the three components of Coffalyser.Net, the client, server service and database, are highlighted in a different font to distinguish them from the general language terms.

It is possible to run more than one Coffalyser.Net server service on the same computer. Each server service connects to a different database, which can be an attractive way to separate concerns in some professional environments.

The Configuration Wizard does *not* support more than a single Coffalyser.Net server service on a computer by default. This requires a relatively straightforward manual workaround. If you prefer to use default installation procedures you can still run multiple databases within the same network by installing multiple instances of Coffalyser.Net on separate (virtual) servers.

### Warning

At present, it is not possible to install multiple servers on the same computer if the client applications on workstations are not able to automatically detect server services within the network. Automatic server discovery can be enabled by allowing broadcasting on UDP port 1231 ([more details](#)). If you *must* use multiple servers but cannot enable automatic server discovery, [contact us](#) for assistance.

## Reasons to use multiple Coffalyser.Net server services

Coffalyser.Net supports working with multiple users in the same environment through its [user management and organisation systems](#). In such a setup, all users connect to the same database, even if they may not be part of the same organisation. Most of the time this is fine. Reasons to separate the databases may include:

- Database size limitations (especially in a very high-throughput environment).
- A desire to use different SQL Servers (possible but not required by this procedure).

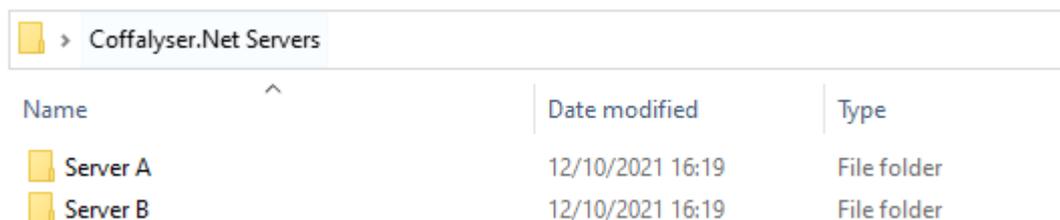
- Complete separation of concerns, with e.g. different departments within your institute using a different database over which they have full control (with each department having its own Coffalyser.Net Server Administrator).
- Different backup needs for different types of data.
- More control when updating Coffalyser.Net.

However, this setup should only be used if there is a good reason to do so. Manual procedures such as this always carry a (small) risk, and you would need to take additional steps when Coffalyser.Net is updated (see below).

## Procedure for multiple Coffalyser.Net server services on the same computer

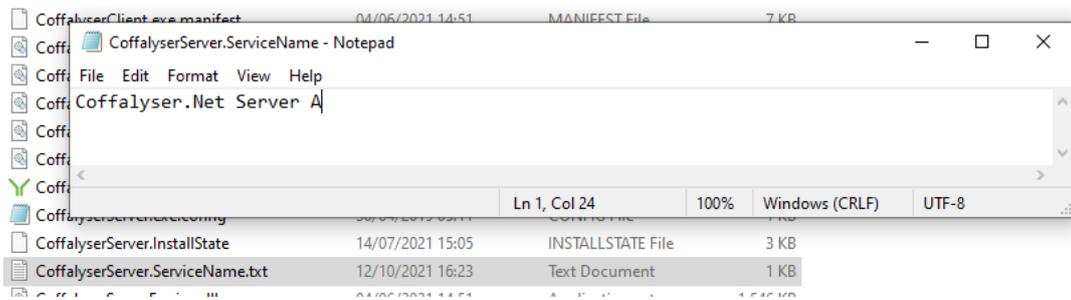
Read the procedure below in its entirety before starting to make sure that you understand all steps. Although this procedure has a very low risk when carried out correctly, we recommend [making a backup](#) of any existing data to be on the safe side.

1. Install Coffalyser.Net, but do not enter the Configuration Wizard.
2. Find the installation directory. By default this is *C:\Program Files (x86)\MRC-Holland\Coffalyser.Net*.
3. Copy all files from the installation directory to a directory for each server service that you want to create. For example:

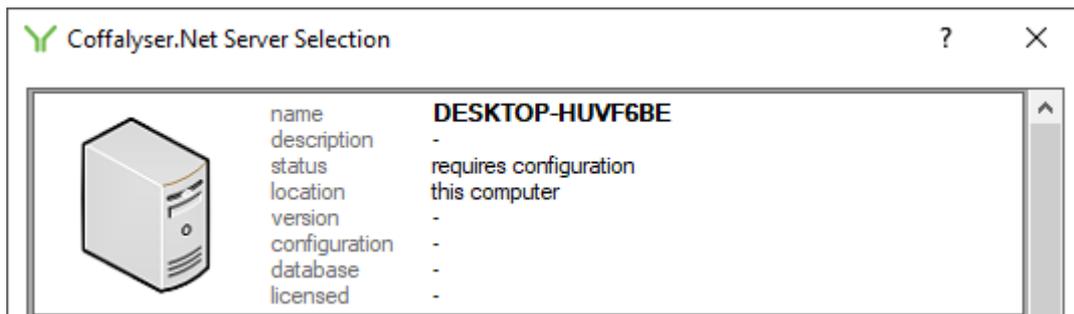


Name	Date modified	Type
Server A	12/10/2021 16:19	File folder
Server B	12/10/2021 16:19	File folder

4. Uninstall Coffalyser.Net. This will remove the original installation directory and the default Coffalyser.Net server service, if it was already present. Do *not* uninstall any version of Microsoft SQL Server if they are present, as this may result in data loss.
5. In each directory you created for the server services, create a plain text file with filename *CoffalyserServer.ServiceName.txt*. In the file, enter a single line of text with a unique server name. For example:



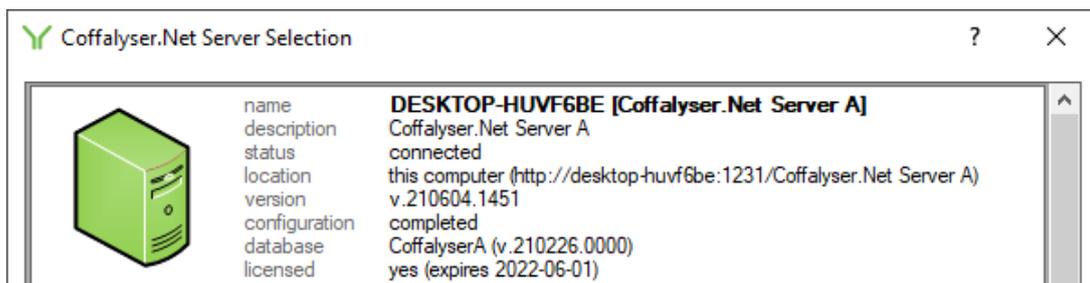
6. Start *CoffalyserClient.exe* from the first server folder. In the Coffalyser.Net Server Selection dialog, you should see a server that requires configuration.



7. Right-click the server and choose Configure to start the Configuration Wizard. Install the Coffalyser.Net server service. In the *Services* app of Windows, you should now see a service with the unique name you specified earlier (this check is optional).

Name	Description	Status	Startup Type	Log On As
Coffalyser.Net Server A	Coffalyser.Net Server A	Running	Automatic	Local System...

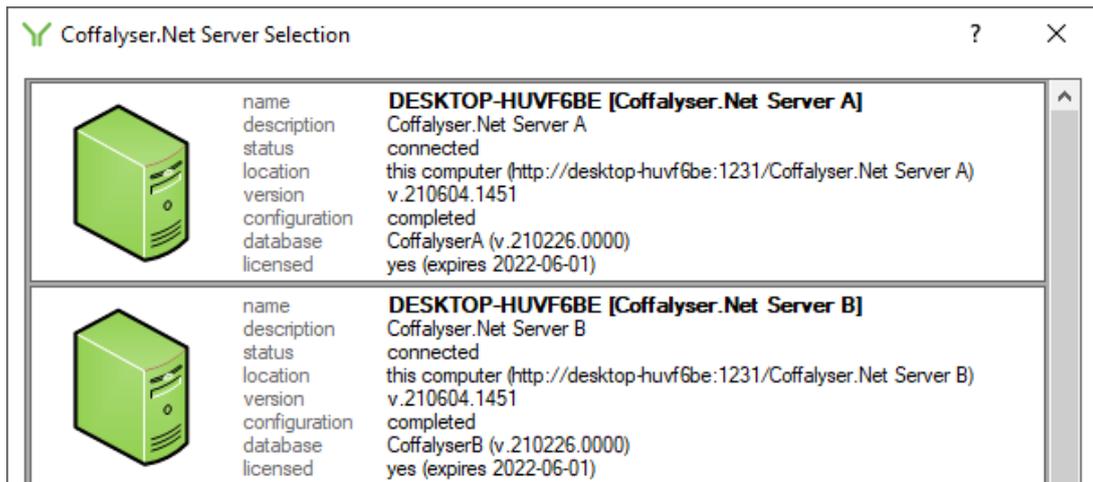
8. Step through the rest of the Configuration Wizard. Connect to the database of choice (either a new or existing database). Once the Configuration Wizard completes, the Server Selection dialog should resemble the screenshot below. You may need to [install a license](#) to obtain a green server. Refer to the [Installation Manual](#) for more details if required.



9. Start *CoffalyserClient.exe* from the second server folder *while keeping the left Shift key pressed*. This should immediately start the Configuration Wizard. It is not possible to install a second service via the Configuration Wizard if you do not keep the left Shift key pressed when starting the application.
10. Install the Coffalyser.Net server service. In the *Services* app of Windows, you should now see both services (this check is optional).

Name	Description	Status	Startup Type	Log On As
Coffalyser.Net Server A	Coffalyser.Net Server A	Running	Automatic	Local System...
Coffalyser.Net Server B	Coffalyser.Net Server B	Running	Automatic	Local System...

- Enter details of the second database and finish the Configuration Wizard.
- Repeat steps 9 through 11 for every additional server service (if you have more than two).
- All servers should now be visible in the Server Selection dialog regardless of which *CoffalyserClient.exe* you start.



- If you haven't done so already, [install a license](#) for all servers. You can either use one license for all servers or different licenses for each server, depending on what is more convenient and more logical in your setup.

The procedure above also works for computers with an existing installation of Coffalyser.Net. During configuration of one of the servers, you can connect to the existing database to make existing data available again.

## Procedure for updates with multiple Coffalyser.Net server services on the same computer

To update Coffalyser.Net on a computer with multiple server services, first uninstall the server services and then execute the steps from the previous installation procedure again.

- Start *CoffalyserClient.exe* from the first server folder *while keeping the left Shift key pressed*. This should immediately start the Configuration Wizard for the correct server service.
- In one of the first steps you will see the Coffalyser.Net service install state. Click on the uninstall button. Confirm that the state changes to not installed. Cancel the Configuration Wizard.

3. Repeat the previous steps for every other server folder.
4. In the *Services* app of Windows, the Coffalyser.Net Server services should no longer be visible (this check is optional).
5. Remove the server folders.
6. Repeat the installation procedure described above using the new version of Coffalyser.Net. In the Configuration Wizard, you can reconnect each server service to the appropriate database.
7. Make sure that the client applications are also updated on the end-users' workstations, if applicable.

Tags

Coffalyser.Net

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#### Related Pages

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- [How can I work with multiple users and organisations in Coffalyser.Net?](#)
- [What is the best way to configure Coffalyser.Net within a network?](#)

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#### Disclaimer

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*The information provided in this material is correct for the majority of our products. However, for certain applications, the instructions for use may differ. In the event of conflicting information, the relevant instructions for use take precedence.*