PC SCHEMATIC

PC Automation AI Assistant

Installation and Getting Started

Windows 11 | PC SCHEMATIC Automation | AI Assistant 1.1 and later

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1 Before you install

You need:

Requirement	Notes
Windows 11	
PC SCHEMATIC Automation installed	Locally, on a network drive, or on a terminal server.
Administrator rights for the installation	The assistant is installed once per computer. If you don't have them, ask your IT department.
An API key	Your administrator gives it to you.
Internet access to your organisation's PC SCHEMATIC gateway	The address is built into the installer.

The installer also installs the Microsoft .NET runtime the assistant needs, if it is missing.

> **PC Automation on a network share or terminal server?**
> Usually nothing extra is needed. If PC Automation runs from a read-only network share, your IT department must do a one-time preparation first — point them to the IT deployment guide that ships with the AI Assistant.

2 Installing

1. Download the installer from https://gateway.app.pcschematic.net/download/latest. The link always gives you the newest version.
2. Close PC Automation.
3. Run the downloaded installer, `PCSCHEMATIC-AI-Assistant-<version>.exe`, from your Downloads folder.
4. Read the licence terms, tick the box to accept them, and click **Install**.

5. Windows asks *"Do you want to allow this app to make changes to your device?"* (User Account Control). Click **Yes**. The prompt can open behind other windows — check the taskbar if nothing seems to happen.
6. The window **Attach the AI Assistant to PC Automation** appears. Choose the PC Automation installation folder — the folder that contains `PCsELcad.exe`, for example `C:\PCAutomation\v26\PCAutomation`:
   - Click **Browse...** and pick the folder, or type or paste the path.
   - If PC Automation is on a network drive that **Browse...** does not list, type the full network path, e.g. `\\server\share\PCAutomation`.
7. Click **Attach**. If the folder is wrong, the window says so and you can correct it.
8. Wait for the installer to finish and click **Close**.

> The assistant is installed in `C:\Program Files\PC Automation AI Assistant\` and appears in the Start menu as **AI Assistant**.

3 Getting started

3.1 Start the assistant and enter your API key

1. Open the Start menu and start **AI Assistant**.
2. Click ⚙ in the titlebar to open **Settings**, and open the **Account** tab.
3. Paste the API key your administrator gave you into **Gateway API Key** and click **Save & Apply**.

- The key is checked before it is saved. If it is refused, the dialog says why and your previous key is kept.
- The key is stored encrypted in your Windows user profile.

> **Enter your own key even if the assistant already works**
>
> The installation can come with a built-in key that is active for a limited time. The assistant works with it straight away, but stops when it expires. Entering your own key on the **Account** tab now avoids that.

If no key is available at all, the assistant opens the window **Welcome — set up your API key** when it starts. Paste your key there and click **Save and continue**.

3.2 Connect to PC Automation

Start (or restart) PC Automation. The first time the assistant starts, it registers itself with PC Automation. If it shows **"Restart PC Automation to load the assistant"**, close PC Automation completely and start it again. This is needed only once per computer.

Check the status bar at the bottom of the chat window:

- A green **Ready** means the assistant is connected and ready to use.
- **PC Automation is not running**, **API key not accepted** or **Can't reach the gateway** — see section 5, *If something goes wrong*.

3.3 The chat window

The chat window opens as a slim panel on the right of your screen.

Part	What it contains
Titlebar	🕘 saved conversations, **?** Help, ⚙ Settings, **–** minimise, ✕ close.

Part	What it contains
Transcript	Your messages and the assistant's answers. Blue links jump to the component or page in PC Automation. Blue file chips open files the assistant created.
Message box	Type here and press **Enter** (or ▶) to send. 📎 attaches a file.

Closing the window does not lose your conversation — reopen it with 🕘.

3.4 Ask your first question

1. Open a project in PC Automation.
2. Type a question in the message box and press **Enter**, for example:

   > *Which components in this project are missing manufacturer data?*

3. The assistant reads your project and answers. Press **Esc** to stop an answer.

More things to try:

- *Run a full validation of the project.* (or type `/validate`)
- *How many terminals are in strip X1?*
- *Export the parts list to Excel.*

> **Tips**
> Name the page, component or terminal strip you mean, and say what result you want rather than how to get it.

3.5 Approving changes

The assistant never changes anything without asking. Before it edits your project, saves it, or writes a file, it shows a yellow card: ⏸ **Waiting for your approval**.

- Click ▸ in front of the header to see exactly what will be changed.
- Click **Accept** to go ahead, or **Reject** to skip.

Reading your project never asks for approval.

3.6 Getting more help

Press **F1**, click **?** in the titlebar, or type `/help` for the full built-in manual.

4 Uninstalling

1. Close the AI Assistant and PC Automation.
2. Open **Start → Settings → Apps → Installed apps**.
3. Find **PC Automation AI Assistant**, click ⋯ next to it, and choose **Uninstall**. Confirm with **Uninstall**.
4. Click **Yes** when Windows asks for permission.

This removes the assistant for all users of the computer, including its registration in PC Automation.

Your conversations and settings in `%USERPROFILE%\.pcschematic\` are kept. Delete that folder yourself if you want them removed too.

> **Don’t uninstall from PC Automation**
>
> PC Automation lists the assistant as a module in its **Settings** → **Modules** dialog. Do not uninstall it there — use Windows Settings as described above.

5 If something goes wrong

The installer's permission prompt doesn't appear

It may be behind other windows or on another monitor; check the taskbar. If your organisation blocks administrator rights, ask your IT department to install the assistant.

“API key not accepted”

The chat says which case applies:

Message	What to do
Your API key was not accepted	The key is wrong or was revoked. Enter it again under ⚙ **Settings** → **Account**, or ask your administrator for a new one.
Every seat on this API key is in use	Close the assistant on a computer you are not using, or ask your administrator for more seats.
This API key is assigned to another user	Ask your administrator for your own key.

“Can’t reach the gateway”

Check your network connection, VPN or proxy and try again. If colleagues have the same problem, contact your administrator.

The status bar says “PC Automation is not running” while it is

Try these in order:

1. Restart PC Automation.
2. If PC Automation has never been started under your Windows account, start it once, then restart the assistant, then restart PC Automation.
3. If the assistant asks **Choose the PC Automation workstation folder**, pick the folder that contains `PCSCAD.INI` and click **Use this folder**.
4. Start both programs the same way — not one as administrator and the other normally.
5. In ⚙ **Settings**, make sure **Load the assistant in PC Automation on this workstation** is ticked.
6. Still not working? Contact your administrator and send them the log file `%USERPROFILE%\.pcschematic\logs\pcsagent-ui.log`.