

InstallShield 2025 Release Notes

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Introduction

InstallShield is the industry standard for authoring high quality Windows Installer, InstallScript-based installations, and MSIX packages.

InstallShield 2025 also offers new features, enhancements, and resolved issues that make it easy to use the latest technologies.

New Features in 2025 R1

InstallShield 2025 R1 includes the following new features:

- Support High Contrast Mode in Advanced UI and Suite/Advanced UI Installations
- Support for Building 64-Bit InstallScript-Based Setup Launchers

Support High Contrast Mode in Advanced UI and Suite/Advanced UI Installations

In earlier versions, text elements—such as body text and header text—and navigation button labels on the wizard pages during an Advanced UI and Suite/Advanced UI installer installation were not legible when high contrast mode was enabled on the target system.

In InstallShield 2025 R1, the Advanced UI and Suite/Advanced UI installations have been enhanced to support the high contrast mode on the target system. With this enhancement, text elements—such as body text and header text—and navigation button labels on the each wizard pages are now clearly legible when high contrast mode is configured on the target system, ensuring improved accessibility and user experience.

For more information, see "Supporting High Contrast Mode on Wizard Pages in Advanced UI or Suite/ Advanced UI Installation" in the *InstallShield Help Library.*

Support for Building 64-Bit InstallScript-Based Setup Launchers



Project - This information applies to the following project types:

- InstallScript
- InstallScript MSI

In InstallShield 2025 R1, a new setting named **Architecture** has been introduced on the **Build** tab of a release in the **Releases** explorer of the **Media** view. This setting provides enhanced flexibility by allowing you to build the InstallScript-based setup launcher for both 32-bit (x86) and 64-bit (x64) Windows platforms, or exclusively for 64-bit (x64) Windows platforms, depending on your deployment requirements.

With the introduction of this setting, you can now easily target the appropriate system architecture to better align with your application's runtime environment. The following are the available options:

 x86—Selecting this option builds a 32-bit setup launcher that will run on both 32-bit and 64-bit Windows platforms. x64—Selecting this option builds a 64-bit setup launcher that is intended to run only on 64-bit Windows platforms.

By default, this setting is set to **x86**.

Enhancements

InstallShield 2025 includes the following enhancements:

• InstallShield 2025 R1

InstallShield 2025 R1

InstallShield 2025 R1 includes the following enhancements:

- Command-Line Parameters to Specify File Description and Copyright Notice
- Automation Interface Support for APPX/MSIX Packaging
- Ability to Manage the Error Message Display on Execution Failure of Event Command
- Support for InstallScript Custom Action Execution Using 64-Bit InstallScript Engine
- Support for Creating the 64-Bit Update Launcher

Command-Line Parameters to Specify File Description and Copyright Notice

InstallShield 2025 R1 introduces two new command-line parameters that allow you to customize the file description and product copyright notice for a setup.exe file. These parameters must be used with the ISCmdBld.exe command-line tool when building a release to ensure that the setup.exe executable contains the desired data. The following are the new command-line parameters:

- -fd—Use this parameter to specify the desired file description for a setup.exe file, overriding the default file description.
- -fc—Use this parameter to specify the desired product copyright notice for a setup.exe file, overriding the default copyright notice.

For more information, see ISCmdBld.exe in the InstallShield Help Library.



Note - This change was tracked in ISDEV-42570.

Automation Interface Support for APPX/MSIX Packaging

In previous releases, you could not create a Windows App package (.appx/.msix) through the automation interface; you could only configure and create Windows App packages (.appx/.msix) using the **Appx/MSIX** tab, which is available for a release in the **Releases** explorer of the InstallShield IDE.

In the InstallShield 2025 R1, you can now create and manage the Windows App package (.appx/.msix) build process using the automation interface.

For more details, see ISWiRelease Object in the InstallShield Help Library.

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Note - This change was tracked in ISDEV-42945.

Ability to Manage the Error Message Display on Execution Failure of Event Command

Previously, if a command specified in the **Prebuild Event**, **Prepare Files Event**, **Precompression Event**, or **Postbuild Event** setting (on the **Events** tab) failed during the build process, no error message was displayed after the build completed.

InstallShield 2025 R1 allows you manage or control the display of an error message after a successful installer build if a command, specified in the **Prebuild Event**, **Prepare Files Event**, **Precompression Event**, or **Postbuild Event** setting, fails to execute during build time. This behavior can be configured by modifying the <TreatBuildEventFailuresAsErrors default="no" /> element available in the Settings.xml file as follows:

- To enable the display of an error message after a successful installer build for the execution failure of a command—specified in any of those **Events** tab's settings—during build time, set theTreatBuildEventFailuresAsErrors parameter to "yes" in the Settings.xml file.
- To suppress an error message (prevent it from being displayed) after a successful installer build for the execution failure of a command—specified in any of those **Events** tab's settings—during build time, set the TreatBuildEventFailuresAsErrors parameter to "no" in the Settings.xml file.

For more information, see the following in the *InstallShield Help Library*:

- Managing Error Display for Execution Failure of Event Settings Command
- Build Errors and Warnings



Note - This change was tracked in ISDEV-44034.

Support for InstallScript Custom Action Execution Using 64-Bit InstallScript Engine



Project - This information applies to the following project types:

- Basic MSI
- InstallScript MSI
- Merge Module

InstallShield 2025 R1 introduces a new setting named **Run 64-bit InstallScript** in the **Action** area of a custom action in the **Custom Actions and Sequences** view or **Custom Actions** view. This new setting allows you to specify whether you want the InstallScript custom action to be executed using the 64-bit InstallScript engine, enabling proper access to a 64-bit file system and 64-bit registry locations on 64-bit target systems. The setting provides the following options:

- Yes—Selecting this option specifies that the InstallScript custom action will be executed only using the 64-bit InstallScript engine. This option is suitable when the custom action must access a 64-bit file system or 64-bit registry locations on 64-bit target systems.
- No—Selecting this option specifies that the InstallScript custom action will be executed only using the 32-bit InstallScript engine. This option is suitable when the custom action must access a 32-bit file system or 32-bit registry locations on 64-bit target systems.

By default, the Run 64-bit InstallScript setting is set to No.



Note - This change was tracked in ISDEV-44358.

Enhanced Support for 32-bit Resources Access in 64-bit InstallScript Execution

InstallShield 2025 R1 introduces support for accessing 32-bit file system paths and 32-bit registry locations while executing custom actions using the 64-bit InstallScript engine. This capability is especially useful when your installer needs to interact with 32-bit applications or system areas on 64-bit Windows platforms. This support is enabled through the introduction of a new option, constant, and system variable designed for compatibility with 32-bit resources:

- REGDB_OPTION_WOW64_32KEY—A new option that can be set to redirect registry access to 32bit registry locations on a 64-bit operating system. This is especially useful when setting or querying registry keys specific to 32-bit applications.
- IS_PERMISSIONS_OPTION_32BIT_OBJECT—A new constant for the nOptions parameter within the SetObjectPermissions InstallScript function. This constant helps you to enable permissions specifically on 32-bit registry keys.
- FOLDER_APPLICATIONS32—A new system variable that resolves to the 32-bit Program Files folder (typically, C:\Program Files (x86) on 64-bit systems). This variable is useful for targeting the correct path when installing or modifying 32-bit applications.

Note - This change was tracked in ISDEV-44356.

Support for Creating the 64-Bit Update Launcher



Project - This information applies to the following project types:

- Basic MSI
- InstallScript MSI
- QuickPatch

InstallShield 2025 R1 introduces a new setting named **64-bit** that allows you to generate a 64-bit version of the update.exe update launcher for the current patch.

This setting is available in the following location based on the project types:

Basic MSI Project and InstallScript MSI Project Types

Available under the **Create Update.exe** setting in the **Run-Time Settings** area on the **Advanced** tab for a patch configuration in the **Patch Design** view.

QuickPatch Project Types

Available under the **Create Update.exe** setting in the **General** area on the **Advanced** tab of the **Build Settings** section in the **General Information** view.

The 64-bit setting provides the following options:

- Yes—Select this option to create a 64-bit version of the update.exe update launcher.
- No—Select this option to create a 32-bit version of the update.exe update launcher.

By default, the **64-bit** setting is set to No.

The 64-bit update launcher is a bootstrap application designed to handle patch installations for scenarios where the patch targets an InstallScript MSI project built with x64 architecture.

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Note - To enable the 64-bit setting, ensure that Create Update.exe setting is also set to Yes.

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Note - This change was tracked in ISDEV-44637.

Important Information

Note the following important information regarding the InstallShield 2025 release:

- Concurrent License Users Must Update the FlexNet Licensing Server Software
- Evaluating InstallShield
- Obtaining the Installations for InstallShield, InstallShield Add-Ons, and the Redistributable Files
- Installing More than One Edition of InstallShield
- Installing More than One Version of InstallShield
- Remove .NET/J# Tab and Include MSI Engine Options from the Releases View
- InstallShield Edition Naming Change

Concurrent License Users Must Update the FlexNet Licensing Server Software

If you are using a concurrent license of InstallShield, you must update the version of the FlexNet Licensing Server software on the licensing server before you can start using InstallShield 2025.

The version of the FlexNet Licensing Server software that shipped with previous versions of InstallShield cannot manage licenses of InstallShield 2025. InstallShield 2025 will not check out licenses from older versions of the license server even when those licenses are available.



Note - The FlexNet Licensing Server software v11.19.0 can manage licenses of InstallShield 2024 and InstallShield 2025. Upgrading from InstallShield 2024 to InstallShield 2025 lets you to use the existing FlexNet Licensing Server software v11.19.0. Upgrading from the InstallShield 2021 and older versions require the upgrading of FlexNet Licensing Server software to v11.19.0.

You can download the installer for the new FlexNet Licensing Server software from the Revenera Product and License Center.

For instructions on installing the FlexNet Licensing Server software, see Setting Up Your License Server for Concurrent Licenses.

Evaluating InstallShield

If you have not purchased a license for InstallShield, you can install it and use it for a limited number of days without activating it or connecting it to a license server. When you use InstallShield before activating it or connecting it to a license server, it operates in evaluation mode, and some of its functionality is not available. For details, see Functionality Notes for the Evaluation Version of InstallShield. Note that the evaluation limitations are removed when you activate InstallShield or when you connect it to a license server and check out a license for it.



Note In InstallShield 2021 to 2023, Professional Edition was renamed to "InstallShield Edition" and the Premier Edition continued to be referred to as "InstallShield Premier". Starting with InstallShield 2024, the "InstallShield Edition" has been renamed back to "InstallShield Professional".

Obtaining the Installations for InstallShield, InstallShield Add-Ons, and the Redistributable Files

The following installations are available for download from the Revenera Product and License Center as documented in the InstallShield download and licensing instructions:

- InstallShield
- Redistributable files (for example, InstallShield prerequisites and InstallScript objects)
- Add-ons (if you are entitled to them) such as the Standalone Build and the InstallShield MSI Tools
- FlexNet Licensing Server software (if you purchased concurrent licenses and you need to set up your organization's license server)
- Skin Customization Kit
- InstallScript Object templates
- InstallShield service packs (if available)

Note - As of InstallShield 2021, the Collaboration Edition (DIM Editor) is no longer available.

Installing More than One Edition of InstallShield

Only one edition of InstallShield 2025—Premier or Professional—can be installed on a system at a time.

Microsoft Visual Studio can be integrated with only one version of InstallShield at a time. The last version of InstallShield that is installed or repaired on a system is the one that is used for Visual Studio integration.

Installing More than One Version of InstallShield

InstallShield 2025 can coexist on the same machine with other versions of InstallShield.

The InstallShield 2025 Standalone Build can coexist on the same machine with other versions of the Standalone Build. In most cases, the Standalone Build is not installed on the same machine where InstallShield is installed. If you do install both on the same machine and you want to use the automation interface, review the *Installing the Standalone Build and InstallShield on the Same Machine* topic in the InstallShield Help Library to learn about special registration and uninstallation considerations.

Remove .NET/J# Tab and Include MSI Engine Options from the Releases View

The **.NET/J#** tab and **Include MSI Engine** options in the **Releases** explorer on the **Media** view of the **Installation Designer** were originally provided to support .NET 1.1/2.0, Windows Installer 3.1 and J# redistributables. These technologies have become obsolete and no longer supported by the Microsoft. Therefore, starting with InstallShield 2023 all editions, the **.NET/J#** tab and **Include MSI Engine** options in the **Releases** explorer on the **Media** view of the **Installation Designer** have been removed (as well as the associated .NET 1.1/2.0 Core Language and .NET 1.1/2.0 Language Packs dialog boxes). InstallShield 2023 and later build task will simply ignore these options if detected in the older version of project files.

InstallShield Edition Naming Change

In InstallShield 2020 and previous releases, InstallShield was offered in two editions that were named:

- InstallShield Professional Edition
- InstallShield Premier Edition

In InstallShield 2021 to 2023, the name of the **Professional** edition was changed to **InstallShield** edition, so that the two editions were named:

InstallShield Edition

• InstallShield Premier Edition

Starting with InstallShield 2024, the edition naming has reverted back to Professional and Premier:

- InstallShield Professional Edition
- InstallShield Premier Edition

Project Upgrade Alerts

The following information describes possible upgrade issues that may occur when you upgrade projects that were created with InstallShield 2016 and earlier to InstallShield 2025. It also alerts you to possible changes in behavior that you may notice between new InstallShield 2025 projects and projects that are upgraded from InstallShield 2016 or earlier to InstallShield 2025.

- General Information about Upgrading Projects that Were Created in Earlier Versions of InstallShield
- Changes to the List of Supported Versions of Windows for Target Systems
- Localized String Considerations

General Information about Upgrading Projects that Were Created in Earlier Versions of InstallShield

InstallShield creates a backup copy of the project with a file extension such as .777 (for an .ism project) or .2016 (for an .issuite project) before converting it. Delete the .777 or .2016 part from the original project's file name if you want to reopen the project in the earlier version of InstallShield.

You can upgrade projects that were created with the following versions of InstallShield to InstallShield 2025: InstallShield 2016 and earlier, InstallShield 12 and earlier, InstallShield DevStudio, InstallShield Professional 7 and earlier, and InstallShield Developer 8 and earlier.

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Note - Consider the following information:

- You cannot open InstallShield 2025 projects in earlier versions of InstallShield.
- Projects that were created with InstallShield MultiPlatform or InstallShield Universal cannot be upgraded to InstallShield 2025.

Changes to the List of Supported Versions of Windows for Target Systems

For all project types, the Windows 7 and Windows Server 2008 R2 are the minimal Windows versions needed for target systems to run the installation generated in InstallShield.

Localized String Considerations

Changes to the handing and detection of localized strings were introduced starting in InstallShield 2016. For example, localized string content that includes square brackets around invalid characters can now trigger a build time warning or error. Accordingly, the following new warning and errors might occur when you are working with your installation.

Error or Warning Number	Message	Troubleshooting Information
-7355	The %4 value for string %2 does not meet validation criteria for table %1 column %3.	This warning occurs if a localized string value does not meet validation criteria for a column in the String Editor table. To resolve this warning, update the flagged value in the String Editor.
-7354	The %4 value for string %2 does not contain a legitimate value for table %1 column %3.	This error occurs if a localized string value does not contain a legitimate value in the named column of the String Editor table. To resolve this error, update the flagged value in the String Editor.

Resolved Issues

This section lists the customer issues that were resolved in the following version of InstallShield:

• InstallShield 2025 R1

InstallShield 2025 R1

The following issues have been resolved in InstallShield 2025 R1:

Issue Number	Issue Summary
ISDEV-42627	In an InstallScript project, a setup.exe file failed to resume the installation after a reboot if its name included a space. This issue has been fixed.
ISDEV-44380	The debug properties were unexpectedly detected when the release version of the ISSetup.dll file was included in InstallScript-based projects. This issue has been fixed.
ISDEV-44261	Running an Azure DevOps Build Pipeline led to displaying build warnings, although the related build process was successful. This issue has been fixed.
ISDEV-41926	When a system reboot was performed—triggered by an InstallShield prerequisite—an installer installation restarted from the first dialog instead of resuming from where it left off. This issue has been fixed.

Issue Number	Issue Summary
ISDEV-44337	Executing a setup.exe with a custom command-line parameter—including an odd number of double quotation marks—led to the display of multiple instances of setup.exe in Task Manager and the creation of multiple folders in the %TEMP% directory. This issue has been fixed.
ISDEV-44421	A PowerShell crash was observed when building a Suite project using a PowerShell script and the InstallShield automation interface. This issue has been fixed.
ISDEV-44289	InstallShield failed to support Windows high contrast mode. This issue has been fixed.
ISDEV-44252	A failure was observed when executing the /z (command-line parameter for Setup.exe) with the '=' symbol; specifically, the CMDLINE property failed to retain any value after the '=' symbol. This issue has been fixed.
ISDEV-44255	A password value passed from CustomActionData property to a deferred managed code (C#) custom action was unexpectedly exposed in the verbose MSI log file. This issue has been fixed.
ISDEV-43996	Changing a machine's decimal separator from a dot (.) to a comma (,) led to the installation failure of a Suite installer that included minimal wizard pages. This issue has been fixed.
ISDEV-43626	Creating or updating a 64-bit registry key in a Quick Patch project on a 64-bit target system failed to include or update the same registry key in the 64-bit directory; instead, the key was added or updated in the 32-bit directory. This issue has been fixed.
ISDEV-43254	Executing an automation script for a Suite project failed to set the DisplayName property of a newly created feature to a correct string; instead, the property was set to a string ID. This issue has been fixed.
ISDEV-42980	A Suite installer uninstallation failed to remove or delete both the cached {Suite GUID} folder and cached Setup.exe file in the C:\Program Files (x86)\InstallShield Installation Information folder directory. This issue has been fixed.
ISDEV-44389	An installer built with a customer-specific .dll file and with the .NET Assembly setting configured only as Local Assembly triggered the Windows Features dialog prompting for the .NET Framework 3.5. This issue was specific only to installers built using only InstallShield 2024 R2 and has now been fixed.
ISDEV-44418	All the required .dll files pertaining to two supported languages—Arabic (Saudi Arabia) and Hebrew—were missing from the InstallShield IDE or Standalone Build installation location. This issue has been fixed.

Issue Number	Issue Summary
ISDEV-43368	A failure was observed during an automatic upgrade process when upgrading a setup.exe from an older version to a newer version if it included multiple languages in the Language column for an automatic upgrade item. This issue has been fixed.
ISDEV-44308	A failure was observed when using the SS_NOTIFY window style with static (label) controls in InstallScript dialogs. In this case, the static controls did not respond to mouse events as expected. This issue has been fixed.
ISDEV-42678	Using the Merge Module Validation suite for an empty project led to display the ICEM10, ICEM03, and ICEM103 errors. This issue has been fixed.

System Requirements

This section contains the minimum requirements for systems that run InstallShield (the authoring environment), as well as for target systems that run the installations created with InstallShield (the run-time environment).

- For Systems Running InstallShield
- For Target Systems

For Systems Running InstallShield

InstallShield runs on the latest versions of these operating systems, fully updated with the most recent patches and service packs.

Item	Description
Processor	Pentium III-class PC (500 MHz or higher recommended)
RAM	1 GB of RAM (2 GB preferred)
Hard Disk	1 GB free space
Display	Designed for XGA resolution at 1024 × 768 or higher

Item	Description		
Operating System	Windows Server 2012 R2		
	• Windows 10		
	Windows Server 2016		
	Windows Server 2019		
	Windows 11		
	Windows Server 2022		
	Windows Server 2025		
Privileges	Administrative privileges on the system		
Mouse	Microsoft IntelliMouse or other compatible pointing device		
Optional Integration with Visual Studio	The following versions of Microsoft Visual Studio can be integrated with InstallShield Premier or Professional Editions:		
	Visual Studio 2012		
	Visual Studio 2013		
	Visual Studio 2015		
	Visual Studio 2017		
	Visual Studio 2019		
	Visual Studio 2022		
	The following editions of these versions of Visual Studio can be integrated with InstallShield Premier or Professional Editions:		
	Professional		
	Premium		
	• Ultimate		
	Enterprise		

For Target Systems

Target systems must meet the following minimum operating system requirements:

- Windows 7
- Windows Server 2008 R2
- Windows 8
- Windows Server 2012
- Windows Server 8.1

- Windows Server 2012 R2
- Windows 10
- Windows Server 2016
- Windows Server 2019
- Windows 11
- Windows Server 2022
- Windows Server 2025

Target systems must also support the SSE2 instruction set.

Known Issues

There are the following known issues in InstallShield 2025:

- Access Issue with Network Drive in VMware Workstation for InstallShield as Administrator
- InstallScript Object Restriction for 64-bit InstallScript Setups

Access Issue with Network Drive in VMware Workstation for InstallShield as Administrator

A mapped network drive in VMware Workstation, configured using VMware Tools, is accessible to the standard user but becomes inaccessible when accessed by InstallShield running with administrator privileges.

For more information, see A network drive mapped in VMware Tools is accessible only to Standard users, blocking access for InstallShield running as Administrator in the Revenera Community.

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Note - This issue was tracked in ISDEV-44315.

InstallScript Object Restriction for 64-bit InstallScript Setups

InstallScript object projects are not supported in 64-bit InstallScript setups. Attempting to build an InstallScript project—targeting the 64-bit (x64) architecture—with an InstallScript object included will result in a build time error.



Note - This issue was tracked in ISDEV-44640.

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