InstallShield 2024 Express Edition Release Notes

Originally released in July 2024; updated to include R2 (January 2025)

Introduction

InstallShield is the industry standard for authoring high-quality Windows Installer–based installations.

InstallShield 2024 Express Edition also offers new features, enhancements, and resolved issues that make it easy to use the latest technologies.

Enhancements

InstallShield 2024 Express Edition includes the following enhancements:

- InstallShield 2024 R2 Express Edition
- InstallShield 2024 R1 Express Edition

InstallShield 2024 R2 Express Edition

InstallShield 2024 R2 Express Edition includes the following enhancements:

- Ability to Specify Property Name for Custom Signing Tool Configuration
- Support for New Microsoft ASP.NET Core Prerequisite
- Ability to Digitally Sign InstallShield Support Files
- Support for Windows Server 2025

Ability to Specify Property Name for Custom Signing Tool Configuration

InstallShield 2024 R2 Express Edition allows you to specify a property name in the **Arguments** setting of the **Signing** tab for a release in the **Releases** explorer on the **Media** view while configuring a custom signing tool. The following rules must be followed when specifying a property name in the **Arguments** setting:

- The property name must be defined in the **Property Manager** view of your project.
- The property name in the **Arguments** setting must be specified within the square brackets ([]).

Note ▪ This change was tracked in ISDEV-43923.

Support for New Microsoft ASP.NET Core Prerequisite

InstallShield 2024 R2 Express Edition introduces a new prerequisite named Microsoft ASP.NET Core 8.0 Runtime (v8.0.8)-Windows Hosting Bundle. This prerequisite has been added in the **Redistributables** explorer of the **Application Data** view.

Note ▪ This change was tracked in ISDEV-43895.

Ability to Digitally Sign InstallShield Support Files

InstallShield 2024 R2 Express Edition added support to digitally sign InstallShield Express edition support files via the **Sign Files in Package** setting on the **Signing** tab for a release in the **Releases** explorer of the **Media** view.

The **Sign Files in Package** setting enables you to digitally sign all files, including InstallShield support files (English, language-independent, and advanced files) configured in the **Support Files** view, which are used only during the installation process.

Note ▪ This change was tracked in ISDEV-43800

Support for Windows Server 2025

InstallShield 2024 R2 Express Edition allows you to configure installation conditions for Windows Server 2025.

Note ▪ This issue was tracked in ISDEV-44144.

InstallShield 2024 R1 Express Edition

InstallShield 2024 R1 Express Edition includes the following enhancement:

- Ability to Specify EV/OV Token Password Using Command Line

Ability to Specify EV/OV Token Password Using Command Line

In InstallShield 2024 R1 Express Edition, you can specify the EV/OV token password via the cert_password—an optional parameter in the command line build—to sign the files in the project.

Note ▪ This change was tracked in ISDEV-43922.

Important Information

Consider the following important information regarding the InstallShield 2024 Express Edition release:

- Concurrent License Users Must Update the FlexNet Licensing Server Software

- Evaluating InstallShield Express Edition

- 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

- Removal of Update Notifications View

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

Concurrent License Users Must Update the FlexNet Licensing Server Software

If you are using a concurrent license of InstallShield Express Edition, you must update the version of the FlexNet Licensing Server software on the licensing server before you can start using InstallShield 2024 Express Edition.

The version of the FlexNet Licensing Server software that shipped with previous versions of InstallShield Express Edition cannot manage licenses of InstallShield 2024 Express Edition. InstallShield 2024 Express Edition 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 2023 Express Edition and InstallShield 2024 Express Edition. Upgrading from InstallShield 2023 Express Edition to InstallShield 2024 Express Edition lets you to use the existing FlexNet Licensing Server software v11.19.0. Upgrading from the InstallShield 2021 Express Edition 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 Express Edition

If you have not purchased a license for InstallShield Express Edition, 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 Express Edition 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 Express Edition or when you connect it to a license server and check out a license for it.

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

The following installations are available for download from the Revenera Software 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)

Installing More than One Edition of InstallShield

Only one edition of InstallShield 2024—Premier, Professional, or Express—can be installed on a system at a time. In addition, the InstallShield 2024 DIM Editor cannot be installed on the same machine with any edition of InstallShield 2024.

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 2024 Express Edition can coexist on the same machine with other versions of InstallShield.

The InstallShield 2024 Express Edition 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.

Removal of Update Notifications View

Starting InstallShield 2021 R1, Update Notifications, where you can integrate FlexNet Connect and InstallShield to check for updates, is no longer supported. The merge modules used for this integration are no longer bundled with InstallShield. If you are an existing customer using this integration, you can continue using the integration by copying the merge modules from a previous InstallShield installation. For more details, click here.

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, in InstallShield 2024 Express 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 2024 build task will simply ignore these options if detected in the older version of project files.

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 2024. It also alerts you to possible changes in behavior that you may notice between new InstallShield 2024 projects and projects that are upgraded from InstallShield 2016 or earlier to InstallShield 2024.

- 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 Express Edition 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 Express Edition. Note that you cannot open InstallShield 2024 projects in earlier versions of InstallShield Express Edition.

You can upgrade projects that were created with the following versions of InstallShield Express Edition to InstallShield 2024 Express Edition: InstallShield 2016 Express Edition and earlier, InstallShield 12 and earlier, InstallShield DevStudio, InstallShield Professional 7 and earlier, and InstallShield Developer 8 and earlier.

Note that projects that were created with InstallShield MultiPlatform or InstallShield Universal cannot be upgraded to InstallShield 2024.

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

For all project types, Windows 7 and Windows Server 2008 R2 are the minimum versions of Windows that are required for target systems to run the installations that are created in InstallShield Express Edition.

Localized String Considerations

Changes to the handing and detection of localized strings were introduced starting in InstallShield 2016 Express Edition. 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 versions of InstallShield Express Edition:

- InstallShield 2024 R2 Express Edition

- InstallShield 2024 R1 Express Edition

InstallShield 2024 R2 Express Edition

The following issues have been resolved in InstallShield 2024 R2 Express Edition:

Issue Number	Issue Summary
ISDEV-44146	A failure was observed for the `MSIHiddenProperties` property to prevent the properties value—whose names were defined by it—from being logged as plain text when utilizing these properties in the **Text File Changes** view. This issue has been fixed.
ISDEV-44009	The VSSolutionFolder path variable in Visual Studio 2022 failed to update with the solution folder path and was marked as undefined in the Basic MSI project. This issue has been fixed.
ISDEV-43756	A failure was observed when installing the Express edition of InstallShield 2023 R2 on 32-bit platform. This issue has been fixed.

Issue Number	Issue Summary

ISDEV-42603	A failure was observed when attempting to sign the `Swidtag.xml` file using the CNG Certificate, accompanied by the following error message:
	
	`ISDEV : error -1027: Failed signing regid.2000`
	`08.com.revenera_BDC3653D-36B2-4E2F-A7B6-9C2BF12E6278.swidtag`
	
	This issue has been fixed.

ISDEV-43637	The **InstallShield Wizard** dialog failed to display the /a setup.exe command-line parameter during an installation. This issue has been fixed.

InstallShield 2024 R1 Express Edition

The following issues have been resolved in InstallShield 2024 R1 Express Edition:

Issue Number	Issue Summary
ISDEV-43799	When the **Signing Type** setting was set to the **Custom** option, the **Sign files in package** setting failed to digitally sign the package payload files. This issue has been fixed.
ISDEV-42676	Usage of the InstallShield Self-Registration (ISSelfReg) method to register the `.dll` files in a project led to a vulnerability. This issue has been fixed.
ISDEV-41935	After rebooting, the installer installation failed to remove all files from the `temp` directory due to the included prerequisites. This issue has been fixed.

System Requirements

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

- For Systems Running InstallShield Express Edition
- For Target Systems

For Systems Running InstallShield Express Edition

InstallShield Express Edition 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)

Item	Description
RAM	1 GB of RAM (2 GB preferred)
Hard Disk	1 GB free space
Display	Designed for XGA resolution at 1024 × 768 or higher
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 no known issues in InstallShield 2024 Express Edition.

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