

AdminStudio 9.0

Release Notes

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Introduction

With AdminStudio 9.0, Aceso delivers to organizations a smoother, more feature-rich solution to help ensure application readiness, while also providing new time and effort-saving functionality that enables organizations to prepare for a Vista OS migration and/or application virtualization migrations.

AdminStudio 9.0 provides support for leading application virtualization technologies including Citrix® XenApp™ (formerly known as Citrix Presentation Server™) and VMware ThinApp™ (formerly Thinstall™ Virtualization Suite™).

AdminStudio 9.0's expanded application virtualization toolkit includes a new a Pre-Conversion Evaluation functionality that allows the proactive testing of applications for virtualization compatibility before proceeding with conversion. This feature also incorporates an extensible test framework that enables you to write your own XML-based custom rules to detect and remediate issues that could prevent the successful creation of a reliable virtual package. Additional application virtualization features in AdminStudio 9.0 include batch conversion, virtual application suiting, and the ability to import virtual packages into the Application Catalog and the Software Repository.

AdminStudio 9.0 InstallShield Editor also includes the features of the InstallShield 2009 release.

Components

AdminStudio 9.0 is available in Standard, Professional, and Enterprise Editions.

- [Standard Edition](#)
- [Professional Edition](#)
- [Enterprise Edition](#)
- [Virtualization Pack for Enterprise Edition](#)

Standard Edition

AdminStudio 9.0 Standard Edition includes the following components:

- Repackager
- Distribution Wizard
- FLEXwrap
- InstallShield 2009
- Tuner
- Application Isolation Wizard
- Configuration Manager Web Console (Limited)

Professional Edition

AdminStudio 9.0 Professional Edition includes all of the Standard Edition components plus the following additional components:

- ConflictSolver
- Application Manager
- OS Snapshot Wizard
- QualityMonitor
- Predeployment Test
- Configuration Manager Web Console (Full)

Enterprise Edition

AdminStudio 9.0 Enterprise Edition includes all of the Professional Edition components plus the following additional components:

- PackageExpert
- OS Security Patch Wizard
- Job Manager
- Report Center
- Software Repository
- Security Console

Virtualization Pack for Enterprise Edition

The Virtualization Pack provides Citrix and ThinApp virtualization support as add-on features to the Enterprise Edition. The following additional components are available:

- Citrix Assistant
- ThinApp Assistant
- Windows Installer Converter

New Features

AdminStudio 9.0 includes the following new features:

Standard, Professional, and Enterprise Editions

- [Repackager Support for Double-Byte Character Systems](#)
- [InstallShield 2009 Functionality](#)

Enterprise Edition

- [OS Security Patch Wizard](#)

Virtualization Pack for Enterprise Edition

- [Pre-Conversion Evaluation for Application Virtualization](#)
- [Virtual Application Management](#)
- [Virtual Application Suiting](#)
- [Virtual Application Batch Conversion](#)
- [Citrix XenApp 4.5.1 Virtualization Engine Support](#)
- [VMware ThinApp Support, Including AppLink and AppSync Support](#)

Standard, Professional, and Enterprise Editions

AdminStudio 9.0 Standard, Professional, and Enterprise Editions include the following new features.

Repackager Support for Double-Byte Character Systems

Properly capturing and presenting double-byte characters—such as Japanese, Korean or Arabic—is becoming increasingly important to worldwide organizations, including AdminStudio's Asia-Pacific based customers. AdminStudio Repackager is now enhanced to ensure that the Repackager will support double-byte character systems.

InstallShield 2009 Functionality

AdminStudio 9.0 InstallShield Editor includes the following features of the InstallShield 2009 release:

- **Ability to associate InstallShield prerequisites with features**—InstallShield now enables you to associate InstallShield prerequisites with one or more features. This new type of InstallShield prerequisite is called a feature prerequisite. It is installed if a feature that contains the prerequisite is installed and if the prerequisite is not already installed on the system. Including InstallShield prerequisites in your project enables you to chain multiple installations together, bypassing the Windows Installer limitation that permits only one Execute sequence to be run at a time. If any package in the chain fails, any previous packages in the chain will also be rolled back.

- **Windows Installer 4.5 support**—You can use InstallShield to create Windows Installer packages that leverage the functionality in Windows Installer 4.5.
 - **Installation of multiple packages using transaction processing**—InstallShield lets you add Windows Installer packages to Basic MSI, InstallScript MSI, and Web projects as chained .msi packages. If your Basic MSI, InstallScript MSI, or Web installation includes chained .msi packages and Windows Installer 4.5 is present on the target system, the Windows Installer installs the multiple packages using transaction processing.
 - **Support for using the InstallScript Engine as an embedded user interface for InstallScript MSI installations**—For InstallScript MSI projects, you now have the option to use the InstallScript engine as an embedded custom user interface (UI) handler, rather than as an external custom UI handler, as it has traditionally been used.
 - **Shared component patching**—InstallShield includes support for the new shared component patching feature that is available with Windows Installer 4.5.
 - **Support for superseding components**—Use the new Uninstall Superseded Component setting in the Components view to specify how you want Windows Installer 4.5 to handle the selected component during installation of a superseding patch under certain conditions.
 - **Support for running a custom action only during patch uninstallation**—Use the new Run During Patch Uninstall setting for a custom action to indicate whether Windows Installer should run the selected custom action only when a patch is being uninstalled.
- **Visual Studio 2008 support**—InstallShield is now integrated with Visual Studio 2008.
- **.NET Framework 3.5 support**—InstallShield now includes several new .NET-related InstallShield prerequisites that you can add to Basic MSI, InstallScript MSI, and Web projects. InstallShield now supports the option to either install or include a requirement to install the .NET Framework 3.5 and the .NET Compact Framework 3.5 in Windows Installer installations.
- **Managed-code custom action support**—InstallShield 2009 enables you to easily add managed-code custom actions to Basic MSI, InstallScript MSI, and Merge Module projects without manually writing code.
- **Installing multiple product instances**—Using InstallShield, you can create Windows Installer packages that have the ability to install multiple instances of the same product on the same machine.
- **Hebrew and Arabic language support**—You can now use InstallShield to present installation text and buttons in Hebrew and Arabic.
- **Ability to build unicode versions of the setup.exe and update.exe bootstrappers**—InstallShield now enables you to specify whether you want to build a Unicode version or an ANSI version of the setup.exe setup launcher for a Basic MSI or Web project, allowing you to correctly display text in double-byte locales. Previously, if your Basic MSI or Web project included a setup launcher, InstallShield always built an ANSI version; it did not include support for building a Unicode version.
- **Four InstallShield MSI tools**—Four new InstallShield MSI tools save you time and effort by providing a user interface for common troubleshooting tasks.
 - **InstallShield MSI Diff** lets you easily compare two MSI, MSM, PCP, or MSP database files or two InstallShield project files. A color-coded display clearly shows what changes have been made to the files.
 - **InstallShield MSI Query** helps you ensure the accuracy of SQL statements by testing them before they run in the build script. It saves you time by displaying a direct, visual representation of the success of your code.

- **InstallShield MSI Sleuth** eliminates hours of tedious research by letting you run a database query to identify MSI packages against third-party installers. It makes it easy to detect legacy setups so that they can be replaced with industry-standard MSI packages.
- **InstallShield MSI Grep** can run searches of MSI and MSM files to locate specific elements within the database. It saves you time by eliminating the manual scrutinization of database lines to locate data.

Enterprise Edition

AdminStudio 9.0 Enterprise Edition includes the following new feature.

OS Security Patch Wizard

OS Security Patch Wizard is a new AdminStudio tool that is used to import Microsoft operating system patch information into the Application Catalog. You can then use ConflictSolver to analyze the full impact of installing these patches on user machines, enabling you to determine the level of testing you need to perform before distributing a Microsoft OS patch throughout your enterprise.

Virtualization Pack for Enterprise Edition

AdminStudio 9.0 Virtualization Pack for Enterprise Edition includes the following new features:

Pre-Conversion Evaluation for Application Virtualization

AdminStudio 9.0 includes a new a Pre-Conversion Evaluation feature to test applications for virtualization compatibility before proceeding with conversion. This feature enables you to identify which packages are good candidates for virtualization and to evaluate at a high level how easily a virtualization solution could be adopted.

When performing a pre-conversion evaluation, Windows Installer Converter applies a set of pre-defined Acreso Best Practice rules to evaluate packages. However, Windows Installer Converter also incorporates an extensible test framework that enables you to write your own XML-based custom rules to detect and remediate issues that could prevent the successful creation of a virtual package. As you gain experience in virtualization conversion, you can build additional rules to address any issues that you have found, making the virtualization experience in the future even more streamlined for your organization. Acreso is preparing a community Web site that will allow for the sharing and support of application and technology specific rules.

Virtual Application Management

In AdminStudio 9.0, you can import Citrix XenApp and VMware ThinApp virtual packages into the Application Catalog and the Software Repository, providing packagers with a single, clear interface to manage both traditional and virtual packages.

Virtual packages are self-contained entities which ordinarily cannot be modified after they are created. By importing a virtual package into the Application Catalog and associating it with its source Windows Installer package, you have the convenience of being able to easily locate the virtual package's originating Windows Installer package, modify the original Windows Installer package, and then regenerate the virtual package without having to go through the hassle of recapturing it every time.

Virtual Application Suiting

In AdminStudio 9.0, you can convert multiple Windows Installer packages into one virtual application. This “virtual application suiting” feature enables a virtual application to interact with a secondary application within its own virtual container, increasing its isolation from the physical system. By increasing the effective isolation of a virtual application, you minimize the risks to deployment. This feature was developed to address an inherent shortcoming of application virtualization: the lack of interoperability between virtual containers.

Virtual Application Batch Conversion

You can now test and convert your entire existing application portfolio of MSIs into individual virtual packages.

Citrix XenApp 4.5.1 Virtualization Engine Support

AdminStudio 9.0 includes support for Citrix XenApp 4.5.1, the latest version of the Citrix application virtualization engine.

VMware ThinApp Support, Including AppLink and AppSync Support

AdminStudio 9.0 includes support for VMware ThinApp 4.x, including its AppLink and AppSync features.

- **AppLink (Application Link)**—Enables you to configure relationships between ThinApp applications that work together. You can use the AppLink feature to link runtime components to applications, link add-ons and plug-ins to applications, and link packaged applications to service packs.
- **AppSync (Application Sync)**—Enables you to automatically keep deployed ThinApp applications up-to-date. When an application starts up, AppSync can query a Web server to see if an updated version of the package is available. If an update is available, the differences between the existing package and the new package will be downloaded and used to construct an updated version of the package. You can use the AppSync feature to distribute runtime components separately from the applications that use them, and to apply layered service packs to your applications.

System Requirements

This section lists the requirements for AdminStudio client tool machines, enterprise tool machines, and database servers.

AdminStudio Client Tool Machine

The recommended system configuration for a machine running the AdminStudio client tools is:

Item	Description
Processor	1 GHz 32-bit (x86) or greater
RAM	256 MB or greater (512 MB preferred)
Hard Disk	1.1 GB
Display	Designed for XGA at 1024 x 768 resolution or higher
Operating System	Windows XP (SP1 or later is recommended), Windows Vista, Windows 2000 SP3 or later, or Windows Server. Predeployment Test and Configuration Manager Web Console require Microsoft IIS 5 or later.
Browser	Microsoft Internet Explorer 5.5 or later
Privileges	Administrative privileges on the system

Application Catalog Database Server

The recommended system configuration for a database server to store AdminStudio application catalog databases is:

Item	Description
Processor	1 GHz 32-bit (x86) or greater
RAM	512 MB or greater (1 GB preferred)
Hard Disk Space	80 GB or greater
Operating System	Windows 2003 Server or Windows 2000 Server or Advanced Server (with the latest Service Pack)

Item	Description
Database Software	<p>AdminStudio supports SQL Server and Oracle databases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SQL Server 2000 (with the latest Service Pack) is the minimum requirement, but SQL Server 2005 or later is highly recommended. SQL Server must be installed with case-insensitive dictionary sort order and ISO-8859-1 character set (use <code>sp_helpsort</code> T-SQL command for more information). • Oracle 9i or later

AdminStudio Web Server

The recommended system configuration for a machine running the AdminStudio Enterprise tools (Security Console, Report Center, Job Manager) is:

Item	Description
Processor	1 GHz 32-bit (x86) or greater
RAM	512 MB or greater (1 GB preferred)
Hard Disk Space	30 GB or greater
Operating System	Windows 2003 Server or Windows 2000 Server or Advanced Server (with the latest Service Pack)
IIS	IIS 5.0 or IIS 6.0
.NET	.NET Framework 2.0 (including ASPNET 2.0 registered with IIS)
MSXML	MSXML 4.0
Oracle Client	If you are connecting to an Oracle database, the Web Server needs to have the Oracle client installed. The Oracle Client version can be either 9i or 10g, depending upon the database server that is going to be used.
Running on a Domain Controller	If running on a domain controller, you will have to implement one of the procedures described in the Microsoft Developer Network topic Running ASP.NET on a Domain Controller , available at: http://msdn2.microsoft.com/en-us/library/aa579070.aspx

Software Repository Server

The recommended system configuration for the machine that stores the Software Repository files is:

Item	Description
Processor	512 MHz or greater
RAM	512 MB or greater
Hard Disk Space	60 GB or greater
Operating System	Windows 2003 Server or Windows 2000 Server or Advanced Server (with the latest Service Pack)

Known Issues

For a complete list of known issues that pertain to the AdminStudio 9.0 release, see the [Acesso Support Knowledge Base](#).