

Learning Windows Installer Technology ▶ 16 hours

Learn how and why Windows Installer technology is needed. Learn terminology and mechanisms. Understand the internal structure of a Windows Installer installation and how the technology benefits application isolation. Learn to construct a Windows Installer installation package without dependency on commercial development tools.

IN THIS COURSE YOU WILL LEARN HOW TO:

- Construct a Windows Installer installation package using only the Windows Installer SDK tools
- Install files, shortcuts, INI data, and registry values
- Create and customize the installer's User Interface
- Work with sequences and custom actions

Prerequisites

Previous InstallShield or installation development is not required. However, students should be comfortable with the following: Using Windows Explorer and the command prompt to create and manage files, and run executables, basic Windows terminology such as DLL and Control Panel.

Knowledge about relational database system is not required, but would be helpful. The custom action section will be more beneficial if you are familiar with the VBScript scripting language.

Course Outline

Topics covered in this 16-hour course:

- Introduction: You will start by learning about the background and motivations for using the Windows Installer service, and some features of Windows Installer that solve problems commonly found in legacy installations. In this section you will learn:
 - Motivation for Using Windows Installer
 - Features of Windows Installer
- Working with Windows Installer Installations: You will learn how to work with Windows Installer installations. This includes how to run a Windows Installer installation, and the structure of an installation package and products. In this section you will learn:
 - Running a Windows Installer Installation
 - Windows Installer Installation Package
 - Windows Installer Installation Structure
- Sequences and Actions: How to control and customize the behavior of a Windows Installer installation. In this section you will learn:
 - Installation Sequences
 - Required Standard Actions
- A Typical Installation: You will learn how to create a typical Windows Installer installation. In this section you will learn about:
 - A Minimal Installation (Installing Files)
 - Enabling Uninstallation
 - Adding Shortcuts
- User Interface: Making your installation friendlier to the end user. In this section you will learn about:
 - Creating a Dialog Box
 - Control Events
 - Dialog Sequence
 - Required Dialogs

- Custom Actions: How to add custom tasks not supported by Windows Installer to your installation. In this section you will learn about:
 - Types of Custom Actions
 - Adding Custom Actions to an Installation Package
 - Other Custom Action Examples
- Installing Other Data: Setup programs typically need to install data other than files and shortcuts. In this section you will learn about installing:
 - Registry Keys and Values
 - INI Files
 - Environment Variables
- Merge Modules: How to create merge modules and to integrate them with installation packages. In this section you will learn about:
 - Creating a Merge Module
 - Merging a Merge Module using Orca
- Transforms: How to customize an installation package using transforms. In this section you will learn about:
 - Creating a Transform
 - Applying a Transform to an installation package