

RESEARCH ARTICLE



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APPLICATION REPACKAGING SYSTEM USING ADMINSTUDIO

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ABSTRACT

Repackaging is the process of capturing the changes made by an installation program for the purpose of creating a new, customized installation. It is a process of creating, customized installation using and already packaged application. This new installation is called a "Package". Package is designed to support company standards and distribution methods. Repackaging is converting this setup.exe to setup.msi by using windows installer technology. Tool like AdminStudio or InstallShield will be used for the purpose of Repackaging. The aim of the project is to provide Customized Installation. Repackaging helps to Reduce Support Costs. It helps to implement all Windows Installer Features like Self Repair, Source Resiliency etc. It supports Unattended Installations. It saved Time and Effort through Automated Installations. It provides Application and Operating System Stability.

Keywords -Package Request Form, .msi, Customize

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I INTRODUCTION

Application repackaging has many benefits for application developers and users. Traditional or legacy software installations in the past were developed in a variety of ways. Setup developers designed their install programs to concentrate on their own products which often impacted on programs that were already installed on the PC.

Application Repackaging is a process which customizes software as per user's or client's requirement. The word customize includes adding a new feature to it or deleting any unwanted feature from it. In this wrapping, the software installation, re-installation and removal are customized according to user's needs. The process of packaging is more like a client oriented technology.

Application Repackaging is the process of creating distributable bundles of application files, registry keys, INI files and all other entities that are

needed for an application to function correctly in a Windows operating system environment. These bundles are called application packages. Package is a file that contains an application files and metadata required to create and manage instances of the application.

The goal of repackaging an application is to reduce to zero technical knowledge required to install and use the application (no database setup, no web server setup, no application configuration, etc.) The actual package will install through a single click from the user.

II EXISTING SYSTEM

i. CONCEPT: Most installations that are not based on Windows Installer are so called "Legacy Setups". This means that they follow little or no standards. Normally they are based on a Setup.exe file that contains instructions on how the installation should be conducted. Often the Setup.exe installs some

kind of un-installation program that reverses the installation during un-installation. There is a major disadvantage when using legacy setup programs, except for such things as the lack of rollback, self-healing, repairing, upgrading, patching etc, and that is that they are nearly useless in AD Software Management scenarios.

ii.DRAWBACKS

Legacy Installations have following disadvantages.

- High Support Costs.
- Fragile Installs & Uninstalls.
- Difficult & labor Intensive to deploy.
- Not recommended on Large Scale Installations.

III PROPOSED SYSTEM

i. CONCEPT; The aim of the proposed system is to overcome the disadvantages in the legacy installations using repackaging. The tool used in this proposed system is AdminStudio and InstallShield.

ii. ADVANTAGES

- Repackaging helps to reduce the support costs.
- It supports unattended installations.
- It saved time and effort through automated installations.
- It provides application and operation system stability.

IV SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

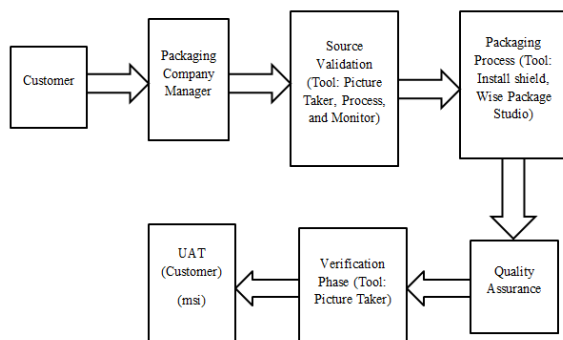


Fig 1 - System Architecture

V MODULE DESCRIPTION

i. Package request: A package request form (PRF) is given from client as a requirement. This form contains the details of customization in the legacy installation. Client requirements like suppress the dialog, customize the popup, create or delete the shortcuts both at desktop and start menu shortcut,

set the path of the installation, customize the entry in the ARP. Repackager has to these all using the AdminStudio tool.

ii.Technical Evaluation of the Source: Tech review has been conducted before start for repackaging the application. This has been conducted to check whether the source is .exe or .msi. First step, Windows Installer Services needs to be disabled. Then install the source .exe. If it is installed properly, then it is 100% .exe. So repackaging has to be done. Second step, if it is not able to install the source without the help of the windows installer services, then it is 40% .msi. The way of finding whether the source is .msi are to reinstall the source again. If it asks for repair option, then it is 100% .msi. Transformation has to be done.

iii.Packaging; Packaging is the main process throughout the modules.

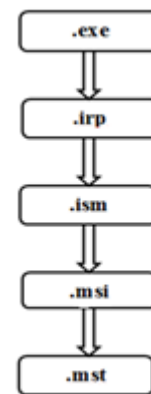


Fig 2 – Repackaging Process

After evaluation of the source, it is ready for repackaging. AdminStudio and InstallShield are the tools used for repackaging. There are the sub tools available for the purpose of capturing, validation and comparing. Initial snapshot has been taken first. Then install the source application. After taking the final snapshot, .arp window will appear within 10 seconds.

After build the .arp will get the .ism. .ism is used for all customizations. Junk files, folders, registry keys can be removed in .ism windows. Components and features also can be added. ARP Entry, Program File Entry and Shortcut menu also be customized in this window. Post installation and Pre installations settings can be customized. Permission settings also included in this customization.

iv. Quality Assurance: Client requirement satisfaction is very necessary. Quality Analysis is the important phase in the repackaging process. This step is basically done to check the entire client requirement standard has been verified. All the documentation like Readme file has been included in the installation package. So that client can be easily understood about the location.

v. Verification Phase: This phase is to verify whether the application is installed properly and also verify the clean uninstallation. To check the drivers have been installed and functions properly with the source. The importance of the phase is to check whether the repackaged applications meet the client's requirement and expectation.

vi. User Acceptance Test: This is the final phase for checking whether the application is working properly or not. If not, the repackager has to follow the same process again to run the application successfully.

VI RESULTS

The following pictures are based on client requirements like no desktop screenshot, ARP Entry, Program file entry.



Fig 3 – No Desktop Screenshot

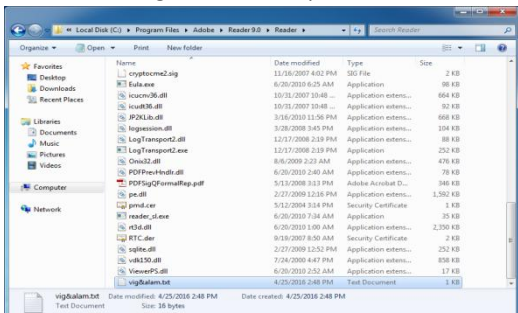


Fig 4 – Program File Entry

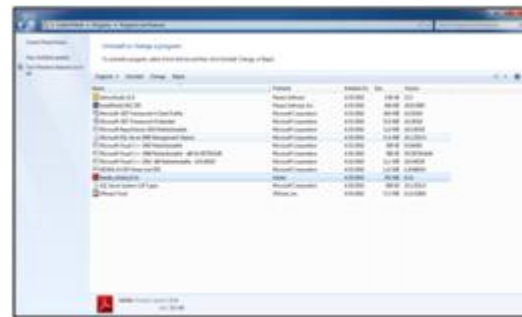


Fig 5 – ARP Entry

VII CONCLUSION

Application Repackaging is a part of software development process. It overcomes the disadvantages in the legacy setup. There are many advantages in the repackaging application. They are, Simplifies the installation procedure. Automate the services. Finally Industry can maximize client in order to generate more revenue with best standards suitable in the market.

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