MSIX App Attach

On-ramp Guide

Windows

Windows

What is MSIX App Attach?

MSIX app attach is a way to deliver MSIX applications to both physical and virtual machines.
In simple words, it allows you to attach apps to the OS.

What is the MSIXMGR tool used for?

MSIXMGR takes an MSIX packaged application (.MSIX) and expands it into an MSIX image (VHD | VHDX | CimFS). That resulting MSIX image (.VHD(x) | CimFS) is what we upload to a storage account/file share in your AVD Deployment

MSIX Image Creation with MSIXMGR Tool

| .msix | --expand--> | .VHD(x)/ CimFS | --upload--> | AVD |

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Prerequisites

1. A functioning Azure Virtual Desktop (AVD) deployment
Azure Virtual Desktop MSIX app attach portal - Azure | Microsoft Learn

2. A list of MSIX apps
if your apps are not in MSIX format:
- Refer to the On-Ramp Guide on MSIX Packaging Tool to convert apps to .msix
-
3. Download MSIXMGR Tool
Use will need administrative permissions on the machine where you'll create the MSIX image

Using MSIXMGR Tool

1. Post downloading, unzip the 📁 msixmgr

2. Copy the location of the unzipped folder 📁 C:\Users\username\Downloads\msixmgr\x64

3. Open a Command Prompt in elevated mode 🛡 Run as administrator

4. Navigate to the folder location copied in step 2.

5. Create a temp folder in C Drive. This is destination where the vhdx will be created.

6. Run the following command to unpack

```
msixmgr.exe -Unpack -packagePath <path to package> -destination <output folder> [-applyacls] [-create]
[-vhdSize <size in MB>] [-filetype <CIM | VHD | VHDX>] [-rootDirectory <rootDirectory>]
```

Example:

```
C:\Users\fizaazmi\Downloads\msixmgr\x64>msixmgr.exe -Unpack -packagePath "C:\Users\fizaazmi\Downloads\PBIDesktop_1.0.0.0_x64__8h6
6172c634n0.msix" -destination "c:\temp\PBIDemo.vhdx" -applyacls -create -vhdSize 4500 -filetype "vhdx" -rootDirectory apps
Successfully created virtual disk
Stopping the Shell Hardware Detection service
Stopping dependent services if necessary.
Successfully initialized and partitioned the disk.
Formatting the disk.
Successfully formatted disk
Starting the Shell Hardware Detection service
Successfully started the Shell Hardware Detection Service
Finished unpacking packages to: c:\temp\PBIDemo.vhdx
```

Using MSIXMGR Tool

Now that you've created the image, go to the destination folder and make sure you successfully created the MSIX image (.VHDX).

Navigate to Azure Portal

1. Open portal.azure.com > Storage accounts > File shares >Select the fileshare > ↑ Upload
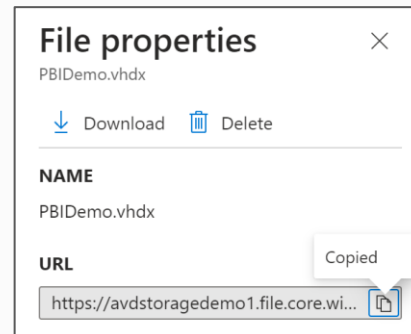   - Upload the MSIX Image created earlier.
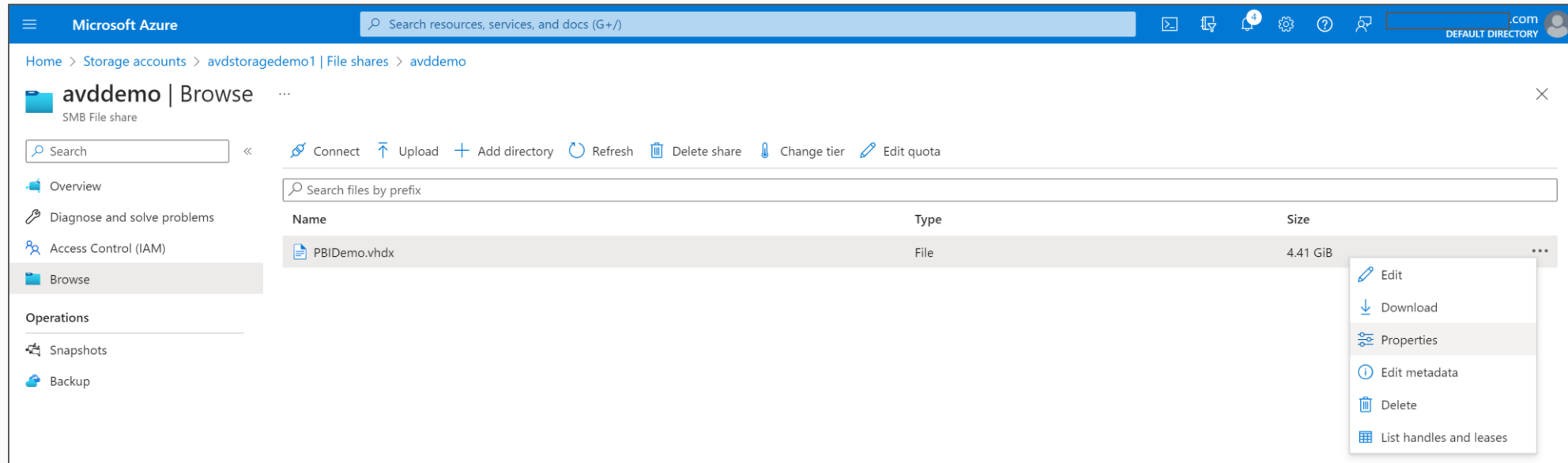
2. Go to Properties and copy Share URL:

 Navigate to Azure Portal

1. Now go to Azure Virtual Desktop > Host pools> Select the Host Pool where you want to put the MSIX Apps
2. Under Manage section > MSIX packages > ➕ Add
3. Paste the MSIX Image Path and select **Add** to interrogate the MSIX container to check if the path is valid
4. For Package applications, make sure the list contains all MSIX applications you want to be available to users in your MSIX package.
5. Optionally, enter a **Display name** if you want your package to have a more user-friendly in your user deployments.
6. Make sure the **Version** has the correct version number.
7. Select the **Registration type** you want to use depending on your needs:
   - **On-demand** registration postpones the full registration of the MSIX application until the user starts the application.   This is the registration type we recommend you use.
   - **Log on blocking** only registers while the user is signing in. We don't recommend this type because it can lead to longer sign-in times for users.

8. . For **State**, select your preferred state.
   - The **Active** status lets users interact with the package.
   - The **Inactive** status causes Azure Virtual Desktop to ignore the package and not deliver it to users.

Add MSIX package   ✕

Adding MSIX package notifies Azure Virtual Desktop that a new application has been made available for publishing and assigning.

MSIX image path * ⓘ	\\advsharestorage.file.core.windows.net\msixfileshare... ✓
MSIX package * ⓘ	Praat_1.0.0.0_x64__8h66172c634n0 ⌄
Package applications	PRAAT
Display name	PRAAT
Version ⓘ	1.0.0.0
Registration type ⓘ	⦿ On-demand
	⦿ Log on blocking
State ⓘ	◯ Inactive
	⦿ Active

[Add] [Cancel]

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Publish MSIX apps to an application group

1. Navigate to Azure Virtual Desktop > Application groups > Select application group you want to publish the app to

2. Under Manage, go to Applications > Add application ＋ Add

3. Select Application source as MSIX package

4. For Application name, enter a descriptive name for the application

5. For Display name, enter a new name for the package that your users will see.

6. For Description, enter a short description of the app package.

7. If you're using a remote app group, you can also configure these options:

   1. Icon path
   2. Icon index

8. When you're done, select Save.

9. Assign users to the App group > Access Control (IAM) > Role assignments

10. Go to session hosts > Restart Virtual Machine

Add application   ✕

Select an application from your start menu or add from a file path.

Application source * | Start menu   ⌄ |

                          | Start menu |

Application * | File path |

Display name | MSIX package |

Description | |
                         | |
                         | |

Application path ⓘ | C:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\root\Office16\MSA... ✓ |

Icon path | C:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\Root\VFS\Windows... ✓ |

Icon index | 0   ✓ |

Require command line   ⦿ No   ◯ Yes

[Save]   [Cancel]

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Share your Feedback

1. Submit Feedback on MSIXMGR Tool or App Attach
2. Submit Ideas and Feature Requests for MSIX App Attach
3. Start a discussion here

MSIX Packaging Tool

On Ramp kit for MPT and PSF.docx (sharepoint.com)

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