Installing a stand-alone Windows app to run on a Linux Mint computer

These instructions are for installing a stand-alone Windows app without having Windows installed, dual booting or in a Virtual Machine (a VM).

For these instructions you'll need to install WINE (WINE Is Not an Emulator) which is a Windows compatibility layer and another app called Play On Linux. (I haven't tried this with WINE Tricks.)

Here's the basic problem to solve. WINE allows you to run many Windows apps on your Linux system but in order to add things that the program may depend on, such as DLLs and libraries, your Windows application has to have an installer. They don't have any easy way to do this with a stand-alone app.

What's the solution? Obviously create an installer for the app.

Here's a step-by-step of how I installed a Windows app called "Materialize" on my machine and got it to work.

I had previously installed it on a Windows 10 machine and had found that I needed to install the Microsoft Visual C++ Redistributable library in order for there to be text on the buttons and dialogue boxes. Although I could get Materialize to run on my Linux Mint box with WINE installed, I got those blank buttons with no way to add what I needed to the app to make it run properly.

To solve this problem I needed to create an installer for the app which could then be accessed by a program called Play On Linux.

After some searching I found a relatively simple Windows installer creator app that would run on WINE. Others were too complicated for my needs. This one was free and is called Install Forge.

Install Forge https://installforge.net/download/

Now for the steps on how to create the installer:

First I downloaded the ZIP file for Materialize (Materialize <u>http://boundingboxsoftware.com/materialize/getkey.php</u>) and extracted it into a folder which I named

naturally "Materialize". The app and the files that went with it were included in this folder.

I opened Install Forge (you may have to tell it to use the WINE program loader) and this is the first thing that came up:

	InstallForge -	8
File Project Help		
Ceneral X General Graphics Language Setup X Files Visual Update Uninstall Vanbles Comensatio	General Graphics Language Program information Program information Program version: 1.78 Company name: Bounding Box Software Website: http:// Supported Operating Systems	
Splash Screen Ucense Serial-Check Finish Registry Shotri dfr	Windows 2000 Windows XP Windows Server 2003 Windows 7 Windows 8 Windows 10 Windows Server 2015 Do not check OS version	

Just some basic information to fill in on this screen (General section > General) - The name of the program (Materialize), the version of it (1.78), the company who made it (Bounding Box Software) the the website, if you want to include that.

There were many screens I skipped and didn't need. I didn't need to change anything on Graphics, so I went right to Language (General > Language) and selected English.

	InstallForge - (
File Project Help	A
General × General Graphics Language Setup ×	Select the language(s) to be supported by your installation package. Select the language(s) to be supported by your installation package. Chinese (Simplified) Detach Zinglish Escalard
Files Visual Update Uninstall Variables Commands	Français Greek Taliano Urburatian Mayar Nedefands Prossi Protsula(Brasil)
Splash Screen License Serial-Check Finish	Russian Russian Import. Delete More languages.
System ¥ Registry Shortruite	v

The next area to deal with was Files (Setup > Files).

	InstallForge -	8
File Project Help		
New Open Save Build		
General ×	Files Visual Update Express Uninstall Variables Commands	
General	Add Files Add Folder Remove Remove All	
Graphics	File Size Ture	
Language	Z:\home\david\Downloads\Materialize\ n/a [Folder]	
		_
Setup 🛛 🛠		_
Files		_
Visual Update		
Uninstall		
Variables		_
Commands		
📮 Dialogs 🛛 🗧		
Splash Screen	Use ZIP file:	
License	Default Installation Path	
Serial-Check		_
Finish	<programfiles>\<company>\<appname>\</appname></company></programfiles> \ <company>\<appname>\</appname></company>	
	Allow user to change installation path	
🌺 System 🛛 🛠		
Registry		
Shortcute	r	

I clicked on the Add Folder button to find that Materialize folder with the extracted files inside of it.

(Note: Use ZIP file doesn't seem to work and will give you an error saying that the installer doesn't work with your operating system.)

I found it important to leave "Allow user to change installation path" checked because the installer defaults to the "Programs (X86)" directory, the one where 32bit apps go and in this case Materialize is a 64bit app that belongs in Programs (no "(X86)" at the end of it).

Just in case I needed it, I also included an Uninstaller (Setup > Uninstall) in the installation:



Lastly, I made some selections as to what shortcuts (System > Shortcuts) would be included.

	InstallForge	- 🙁
File Project Help		
New Open Save Build		
	Registry Shortcuts	
Setup 🛛 🛠		
Files	Destination Shortcut name Target file Command line argume	ente
Visual Update		
Uninstall		
Variables		
Commands		
🔀 Dialogs 🛛 🗧		
Splash Screen		
License		
Serial-Check		<u> </u>
Finish	Add Edit Remove	
System ¥	Default path for start menu <pre><company>\<appname>\</appname></company></pre>	
Pegistar	Allow user to change the start menu shortcut path	
Shortcuts	Create start menu shortcuts for all users	
5.101 0005	Create desktop shortcuts for all users	
Build ¥		
Build		

Now it was time to create the installer...

(Build section > Build) I gave the set up file a name (Materialize install) and picked where it was to be saved by clicking on the button to the right of the Setup File field.

	InstallForge	- 🙁
File Project Help		
New Open Save Build		
Language	Build	
Setup ¥	Setup file: Z:\home\david\Downloads\Materialize install.exe	
Files Visual Update	Compression: Deflate	
Uninstall Variables		
Commands	Build information	
Dialogs 🛛 🗧		_
Splash Screen		
Serial-Check		
Finish		
🚸 System 🛛 🕹		
Registry		
Shortcuts		_
Build ¥		
Build		

Then it was a matter of clicking on the button with the picture on it and it did the rest.

With a Windows installer created, you would think that you'd use it by directly by double-clicking it. No, for this to work you want to access it through Play On Linux.

Here's the steps I took to successfully install a working copy of Materialize:

First open Play On Linux. This is the opening screen:



Click "Install a program".



Play On Linux has a number of apps in its database that you can install but we're installing something it doesn't have, so click "Install a non-listed program" (bottom left corner).

You'll go two Read Me screens (unless you've previously checked "Don't remind me anymore".)

PlayOnLinux - 🙁	PlayOnLinux - 😣
 PlayOnLinux Wizard Please read this During a PlayOnLinux installation: Leave the default install directory unchanged; Just make sure to install to the C: drive, which is the only one managed by PlayOnLinux. Check in the wiki how you can manage the host system disk space; If asked, don't let the installer launch the newly installed program for you at the end of the installation; If asked if you wish to reboot Windows immediately, you may answer Yes, but in no case should you reboot the host operating system by yourself. 	PlayOnLinux Wizard Please read this PlayOnLinux is not related to WineHQ. To ensure that the results will be comparable from one computer to another and to avoid regressions, we specify a working Wine version for each program. This Wine version will quickly become out to date, but we won't change the installer until new tests are made and it takes time. For those reason, please do NOT send any bug report or ask any support on WineHQ forums if you are using PlayOnLinux. If you want to help the project to make some tests in order to avoid using out of date Wine versions, do not hesitate to go on our website. Thank you.
Don't remind me anymore	Don't remind me anymore
Next Cancel	Next Cancel

Then the introductory Manual Installation screen will appear:

	PlayOnLinux	- 😣
playonlinux	anual installation) ()
	Next	Cancel

The next screen gives you option of creating a new virtual drive for your app or altering an existing one. Since this is a new program, we'll select creating the new drive.

PlayOnLinux		- 🛛
PlayOnLinux Wizard Manual installation		
What would you like to do?		
Install a program in a new virtual drive		
Edit or update an existing application		
	Next	Cancel

The drive (aka WINE Prefix) will need a name. Since we are installing Materialize, we'll call it that.

PlayOnLinux		- 😣
PlayOnLinux Wizard		
Manual installation		
Please type a name for your application's virtual drive This name shouldn't contain spaces.		
	Next	Cancel

It's next going to ask what we'd like to do before the installation. Since there are some things that Materialize needs to run properly, we'll check "Install some libraries".

PlayOnLinux		- 😣
PlayOnLinux Wizard		
Manual installation		
What would you like to do before installation? If you don't know, unselect all		
Use another version of Wine		
Configure Wine		
Install some libraries		
	Next	Cancel

Next will be the question whether this will be a 32bit installation or a 64bit installation. Since Materialize is a 64bit application, we'll choose that.

PlayOnLinux		- 😣
PlayOnLinux Wizard		
Manual installation		
What kind of virtual drive do you want to create		
32 bits windows installation		
64 bits windows installation		
	(
	Next	Cancel

After we click Next, there will be a slight delay while the new virtual drive is created.



The next task ahead of us in installing the libraries the app needs to run properly. In the case of Materialize it's going to need the Microsoft core fonts and the Microsoft Visual C++ Redistributable library. I wasn't sure so I checked Gecko as well.

PlayOnLinux - 🙁	PlayOnLinux	- 😣	PlayOnLinux		- 🛛
PlayOnLinux Wizard	PlayOnLinux Wizard		PlayOnLinux Wizard		
PlayOnLinux	PlayOnLinux		PlayOnLinux		
Please make your choice	Please make your choice		Please make your choice		
POL_Install_atmlib	POL_Install_vcrun2005		POL_Install_gdiplus		
POL_Install_cc580	POL_Install_vcrun2008		POL_Install_gecko		
POL_Install_CentralizedUserDirs	OL_Install_vcrun2010		POL_Install_gfwl		
POL_Install_corefonts	POL_Install_vcrun2012		POL_Install_gfwl86		
POL_Install_crypt32	POL_Install_vcrun2013		POL_Install_HackSteam		
POL_Install_d3dcompiler_43	POL_Install_vcrun2015		POL_Install_ie6		
POL_Install_d3dx10	OL_Install_vcrun2019		OL_Install_ie8		
POL_Install_d3dx11	POL_Install_vcrun6		POL_Install_itch		
POL_Install_d3dx9	POL_Install_VideoDriver		POL_Install_iv50		
Next Cancel		Next Cancel		Next	Cancel

*When you click Next and the fonts install, it's easy to miss the "I Accept" checkbox at the bottom.

Now we're finally at the point where we can use that installer we created.

PlayOnLinux			- 6
layOnLinux Wizard			
Manual installation		1	
Please select the install file to	run.		
	Browse		
		Mauk	Grand

Click on the Browse button to navigate to where that is.

The installer will be the typical Windows setup program.



Follow the instructions like you would with any other installer. The only place to be careful is path where the application gets installed. The installer defaults to the directory "Programs (X86)", where 32bit apps go. Since Materialize is a 64bit program, you'll need to make sure that the destination is set to folder simply called "Programs" (no X86 in the name) inside the Windows directory.

Materialize Setup	Materialize Setup – 📀
Select Application Folder Please choose the directory for the installation. Browse for Folder	Select Application Folder Please choose the directory for the installation.
Select Application Folder:	owse. To continue, click Next. If you would like to select a different folder, click Browse. se Destination Folder C:\Program Files\Bounding Box Software\Materialize Browse Required free space: 66 MB Available free space: 369.2 GB Amailable free space: 369.2 GB

After you click Finish on the installer, Play On Linux will prompt you to create a shortcut for the app. After you select the app, you'll be prompted for a name to go on the shortcut.

PlayOnLinux	- 😣		
PlayOnLinux Wizard			
Manual installation			
Please choose a file for PlayOnLinux to make a shortcul	t		
✓ I don't want to make another shortcut			
Q Browse		PlayOnl inux	- 0
🛟 c2i.exe		PlayOnLinux	
🛟 f2rb.exe		PlayOnLinux Wizard	
🛟 i2c.exe		Manual installation	
Materialize.exe			
🔂 Uninstall.exe			
🋟 wmplayer.exe		Please choose a shortcut name for Materialize.exe	1
wordpad.exe		Materialize	
		Materialize	
			1
	Next Cancel		

You'll be prompted once more to decide if you want any other shortcuts. Most likely you won't, so select "I don't want to make another shortcut" and click Next.

PlayOnLinux		- 😣
PlayOnLinux Wizard		
Manual installation		
Please choose a file for PlayOnLinux to make a short	ut	
✔ I don't want to make another shortcut		
Q Browse		
🛟 c2i.exe		
🛟 f2rb.exe		
i2c.exe		
🔂 Uninstall.exe		
🎨 wmplayer.exe		
wordpad.exe		
	Next	Cancel

Your final screen will look like this. Materialize (or whatever app you install using this method) will appear in the Play On Linux screen as one of the installed apps. There will also be a shortcut icon on your computer's desktop. You can now quit Play On Linux. From now on you should be able to double-click that desktop icon to start up Materialize.



You are all done.