

Edit Custom Tables in Orca

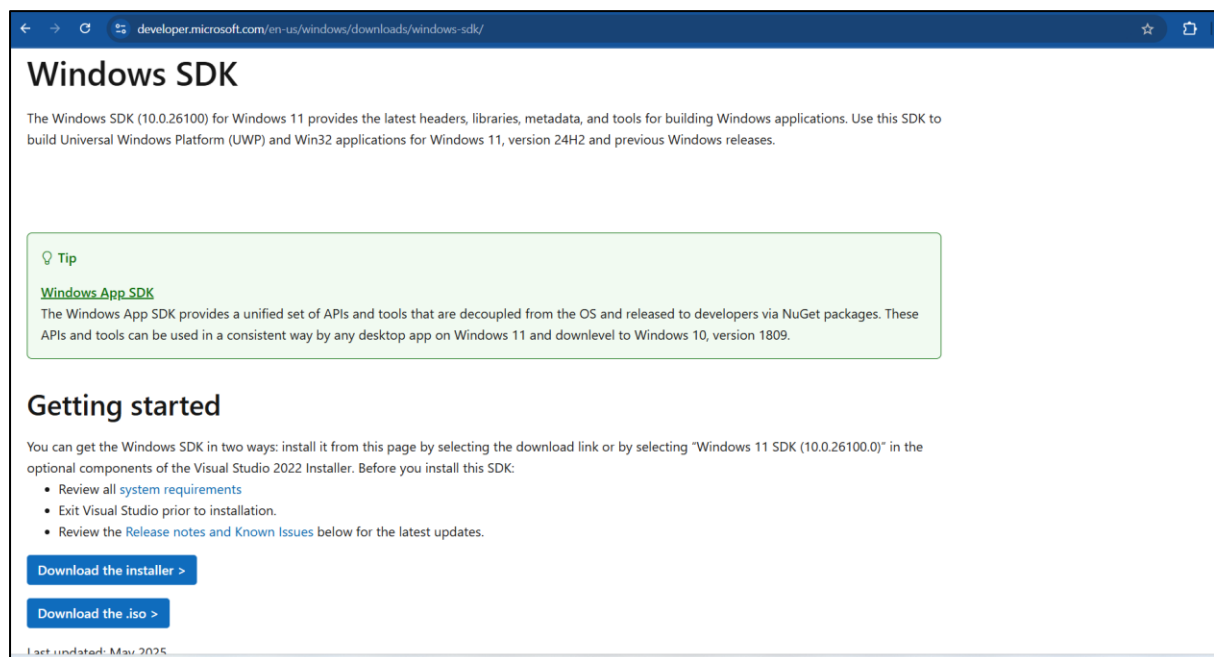
What is MSI?

MSI (Microsoft Installer) is a Windows installation file format used for installing, maintaining, and removing applications. MSI files contain a database of installation instructions divided into **tables**, which Orca can view and modify.

What is Orca?

Orca is a **free MSI editor tool** provided by Microsoft as part of the Windows SDK. It allows users to **View and modify** internal tables of .msi files, **Add custom logic** during installation and **Customize registry** changes, file deletions, environment variables, etc.

To **Download** Orca(<https://developer.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/downloads/windows-sdk/>)



Goal of This Project

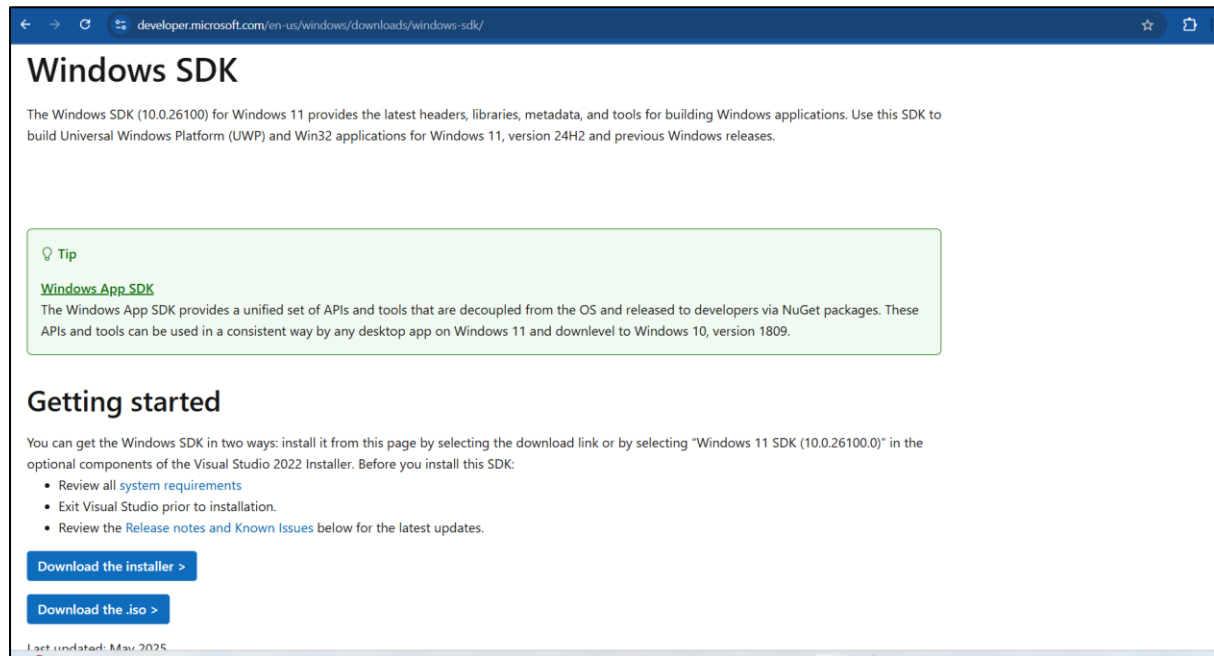
- To see how we **add and edit custom tables** in an MSI file using **Orca**.
- we will manually add:
 - Environment Table – to set environment variables
 - RemoveFile Table – to delete specific files or folders
 - Registry Table – to add or change Windows Registry entries

Requirements:

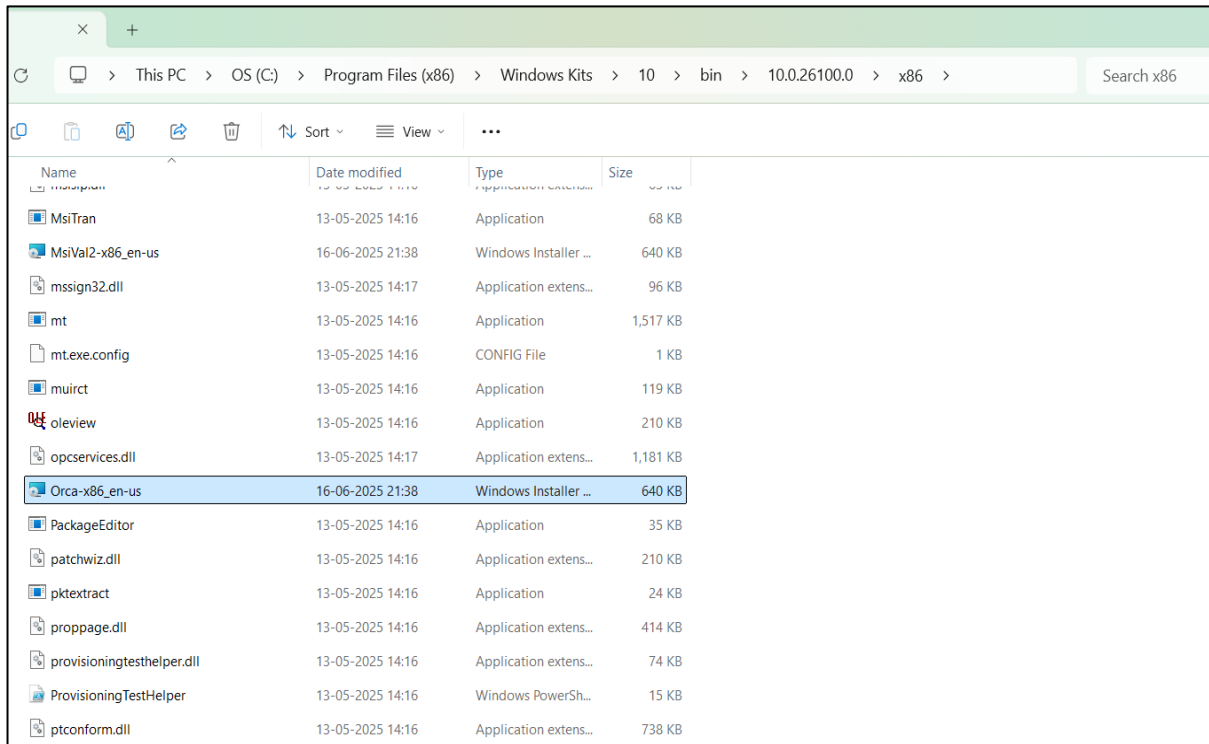
- Windows Operating System (Windows 10 or 11)
- Orca Tool (installed via Windows SDK)
- An .msi file (Example: Firefox.msi or any other test MSI)

Steps to Edit Custom Tables in Orca

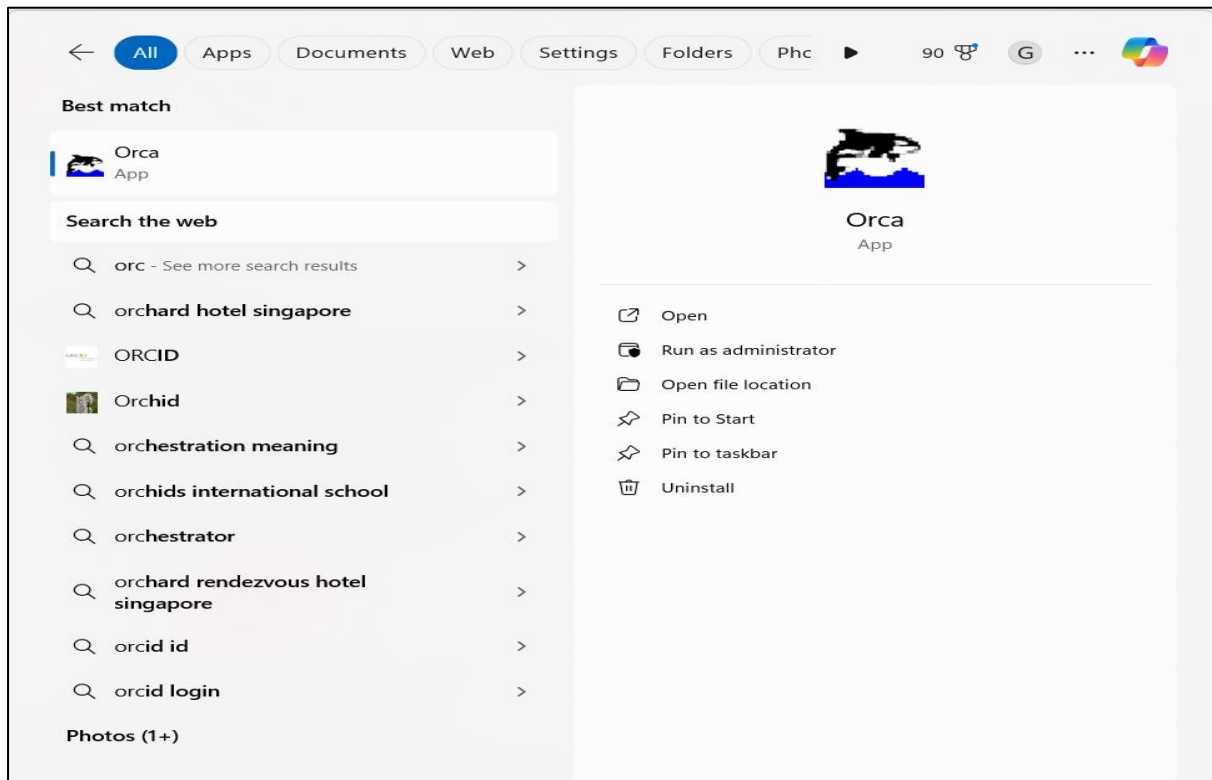
Step 1: Download Orca from the link given above or **download** it directly using this link(<https://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?linkid=2320455>) then open the **winsdksetup**



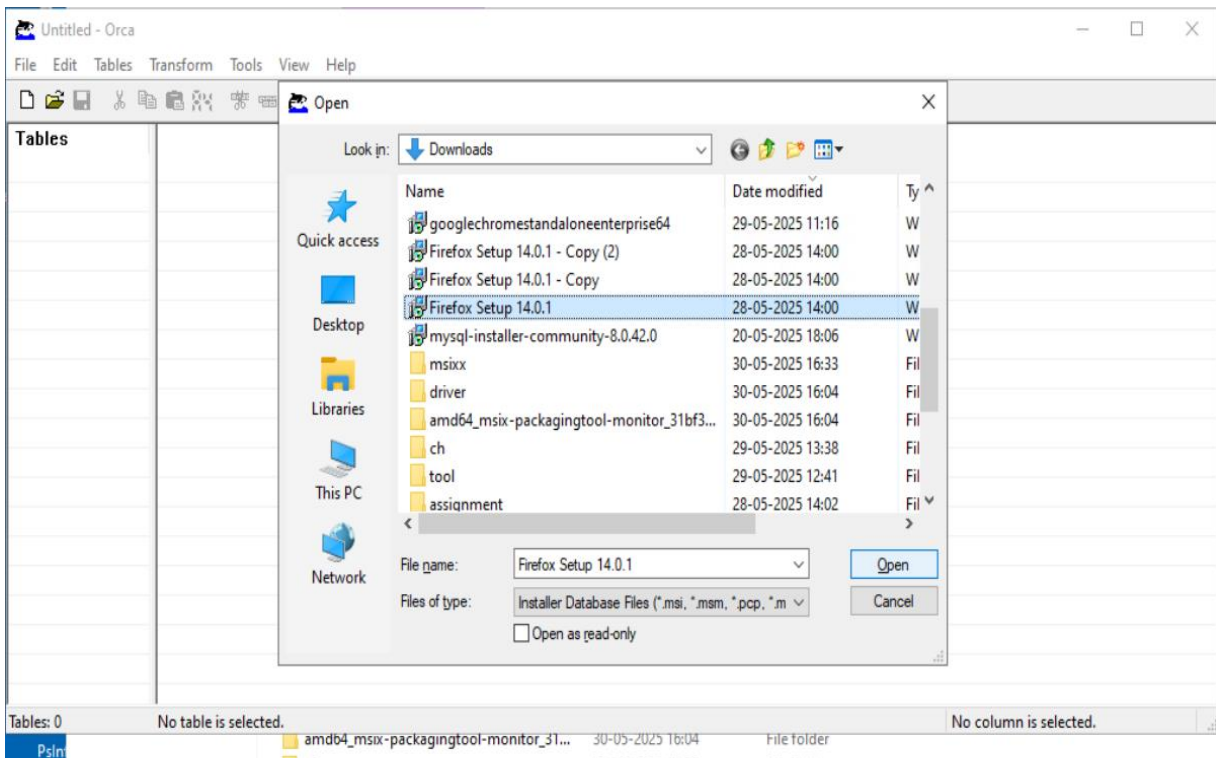
Step 2: Once the setup is **installed**, then **navigate** to this path **C:\Program Files (x86)\Windows Kits\10\bin\10.0.26100.0\x86** and **install** the **Orca-x86_en-us.msi**



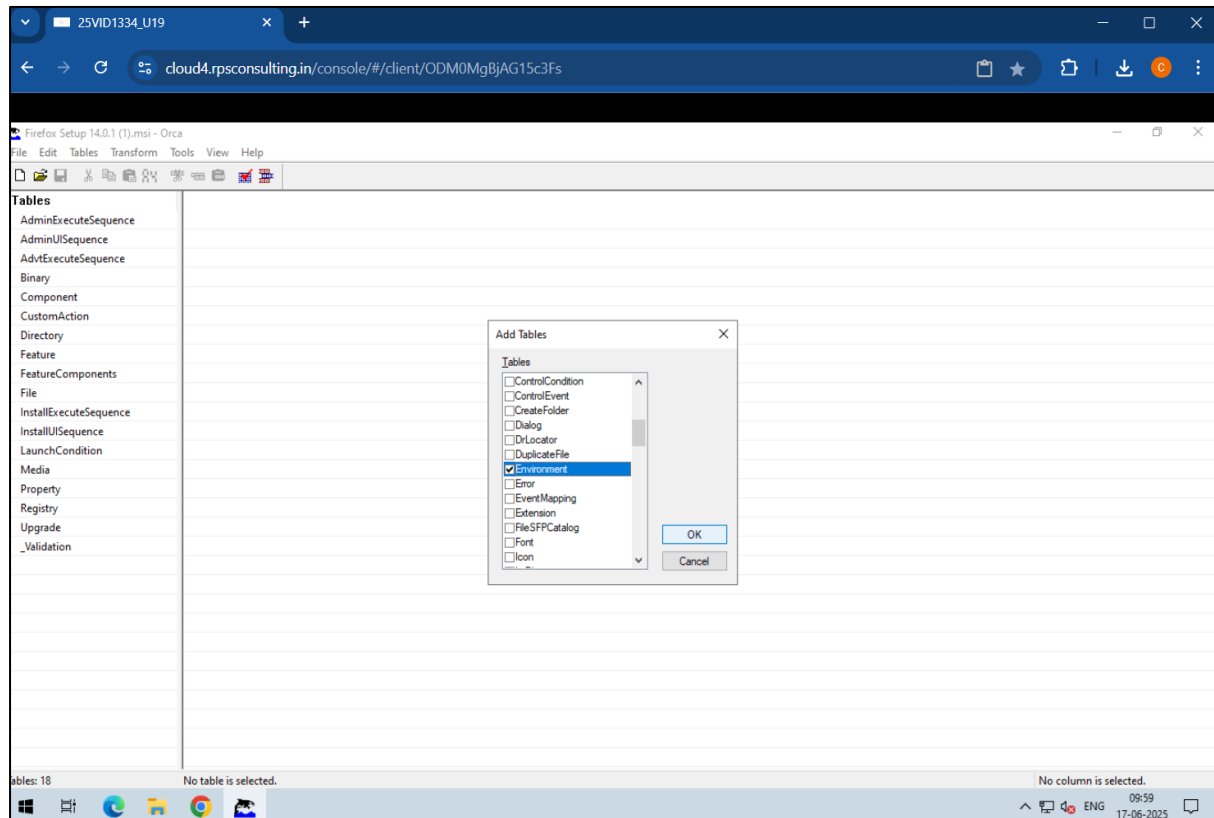
Step 3: Launch Orca from **Start Menu** and **Open Orca**



Step 4: Click on **File** and **Open** choose your MSI file (eg: Firefox.msi)



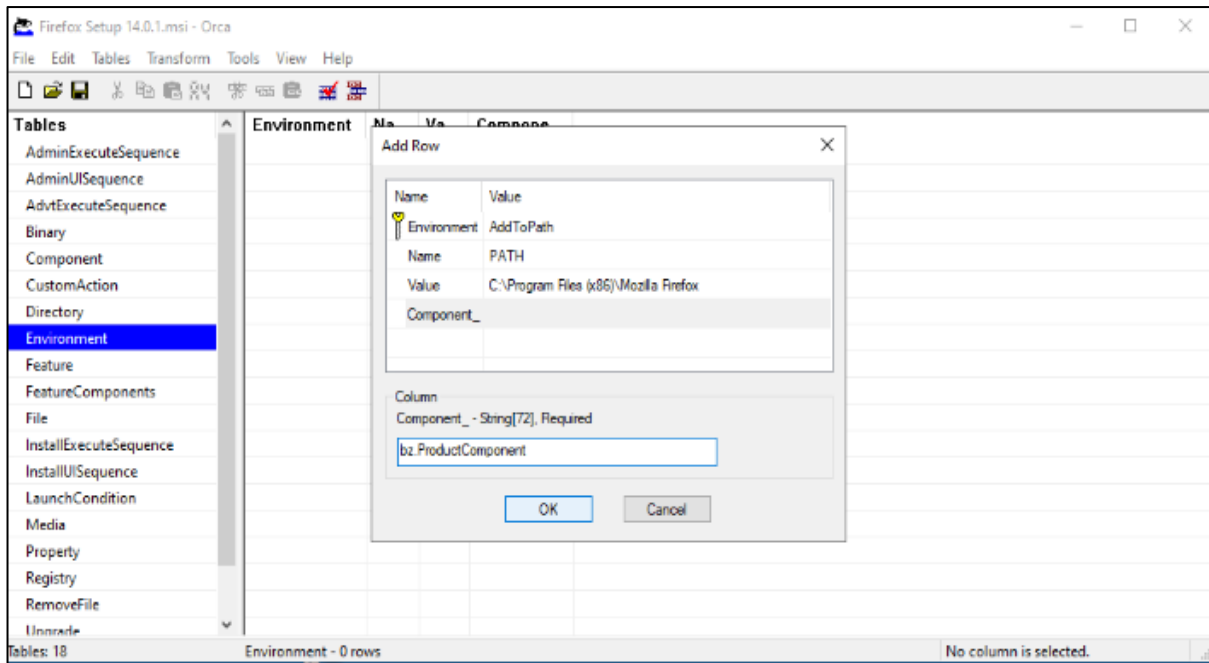
Step 5: Add a Missing Table Click on **Tables > Add Tables...** Choose the table you want to add Environment.idt, RemoveFile.idt, and Registry.idt. If the table is already present, skip this and directly add rows.



Step 6: Add Entries to Environment Table

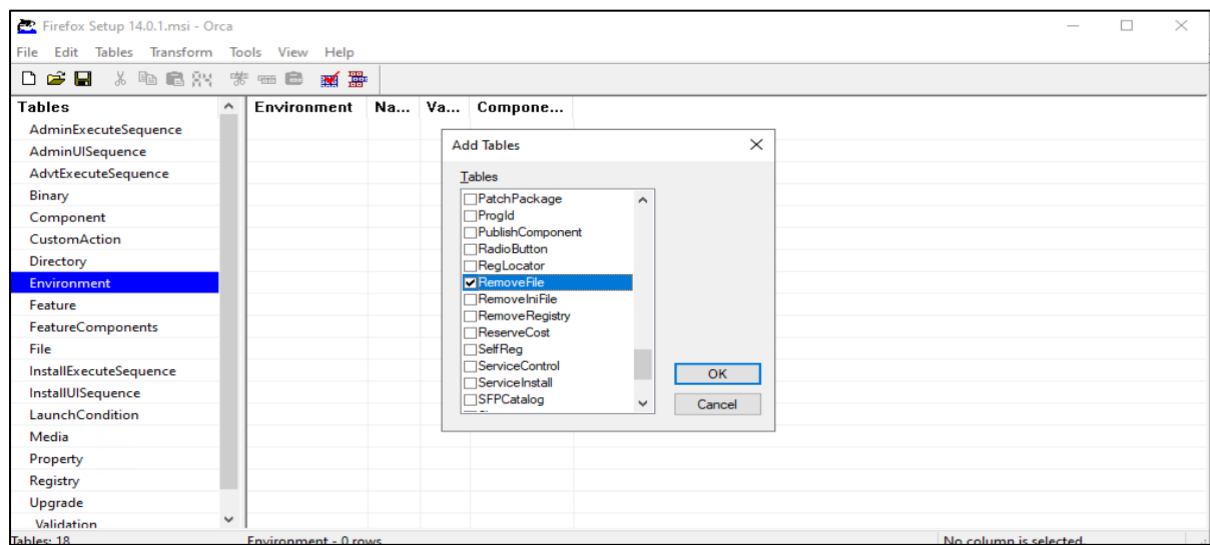
This table adds environment variables (e.g., PATH, JAVA_HOME, etc)

Column	Value
Environment	AddToPath
Name	PATH
Value	C:\Program Files (x86)\Mozilla Firefox
Component	bz.ProductComponent
Action	set



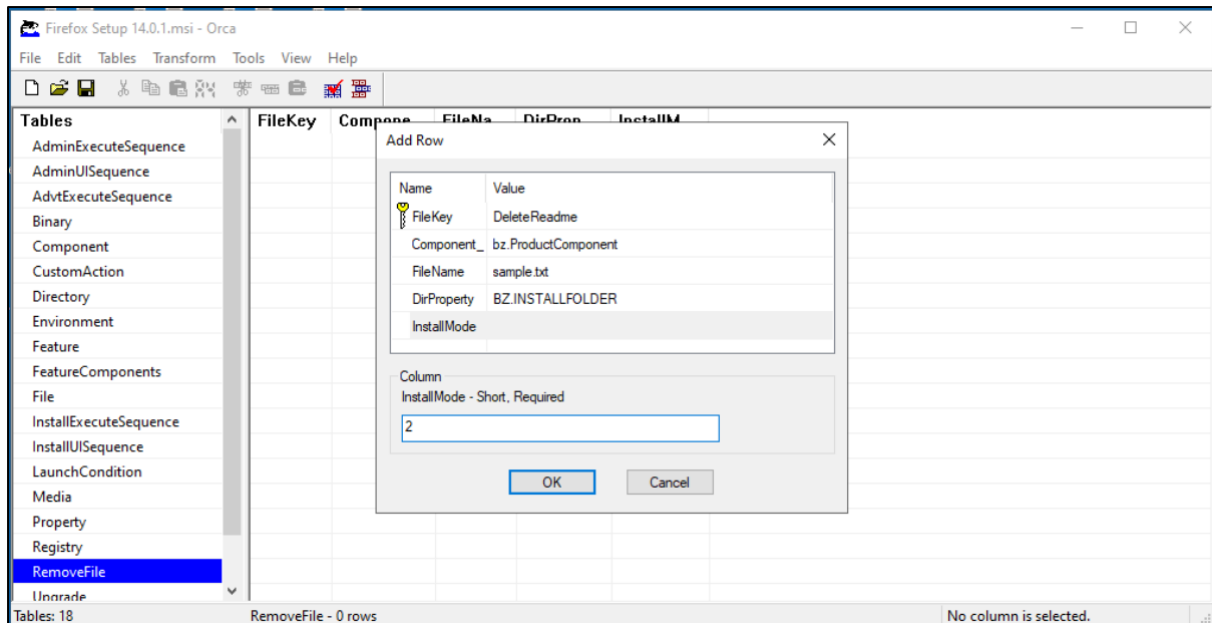
Step 4: Add Entries to RemoveFile Table

This table removes files/folders on install or uninstall



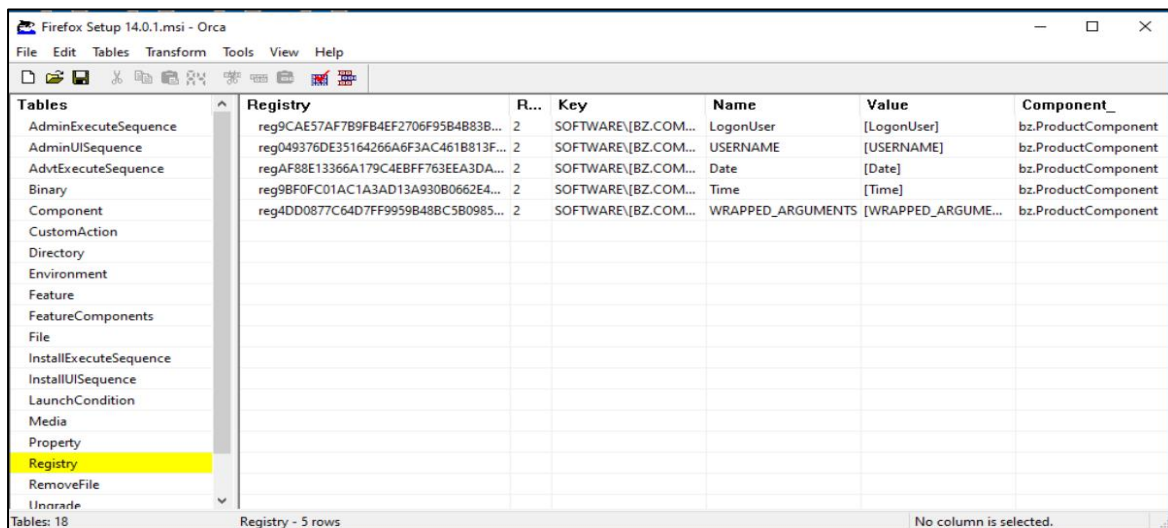
Column	Value
FileKey	DeleteReadme
Component	bz.ProductComponent
FileName	sample.txt
DirProperty	BZ.INSTALLFOLDER
InstallMode	2 (Remove on uninstall only)

This removes sample.txt from the install directory on uninstallation we have to add the **sample.txt** file in the **C:\Program Files (x86)\Mozilla Firefox** path

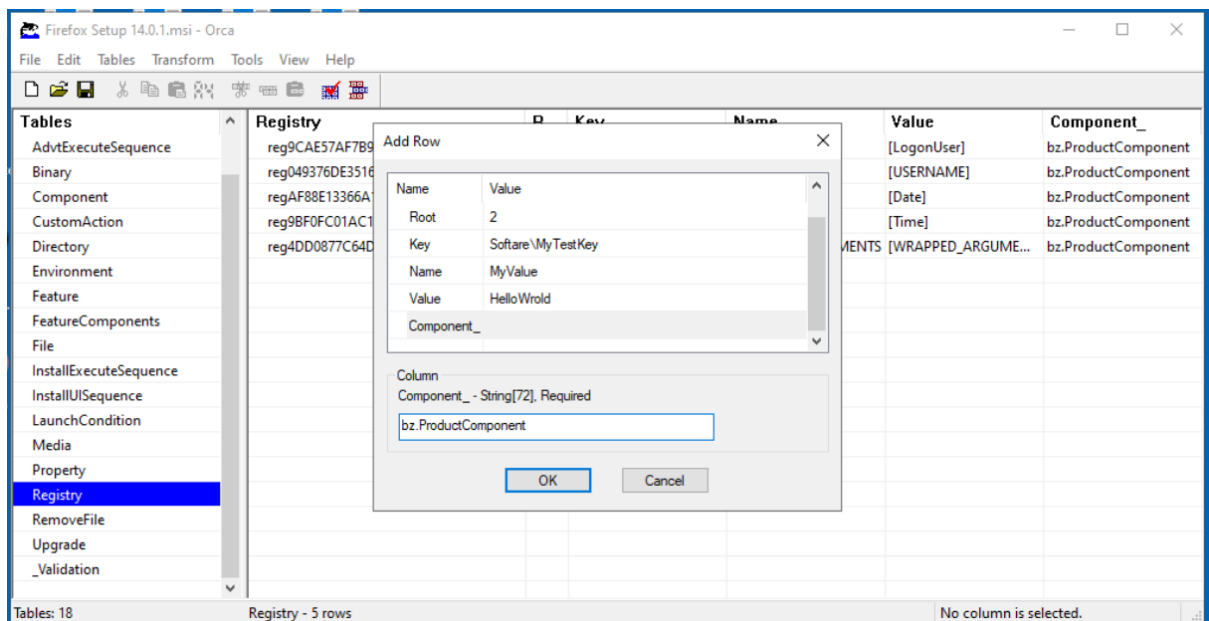


Step 5: Add Entries to Registry Table

This table modifies Windows Registry during installation



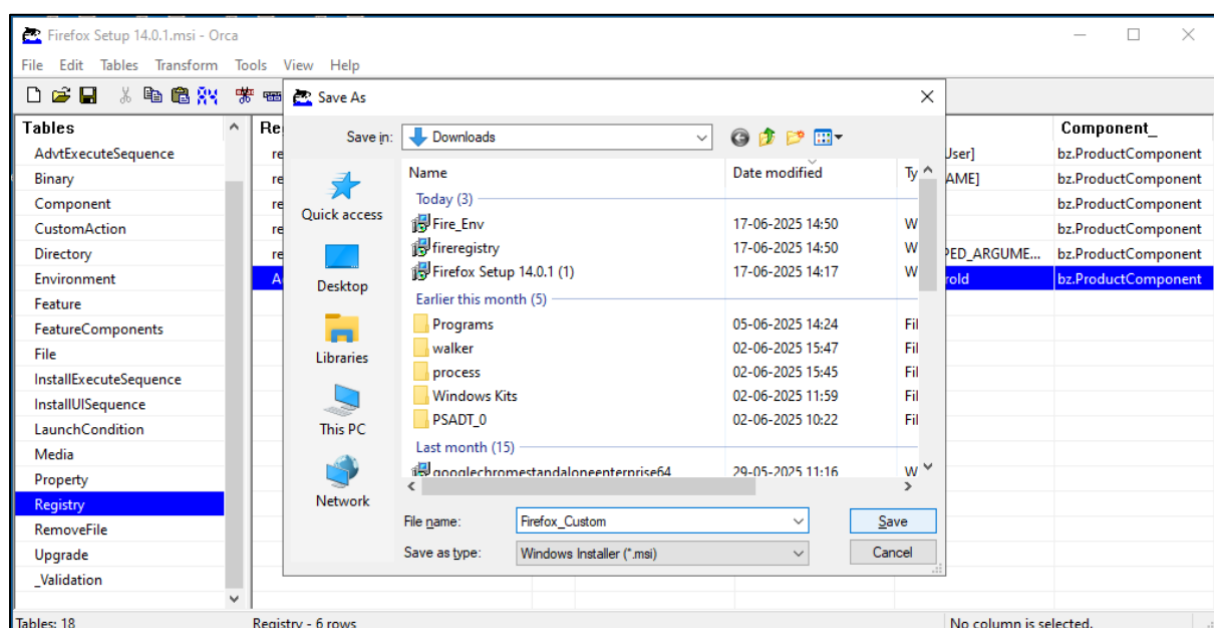
Column	Value
Registry	AddTestRegistry
Root	2
Key	Software\MyTestKey
Name	MyVlaue
Value	HelloWorld
Component	bz.ProductComponent



Root Number	Hive
0	HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT
1	HKEY_CURRENT_USER
2	HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE
3	HKEY_USERS

Step 6: Save the msi click **File > Save As**

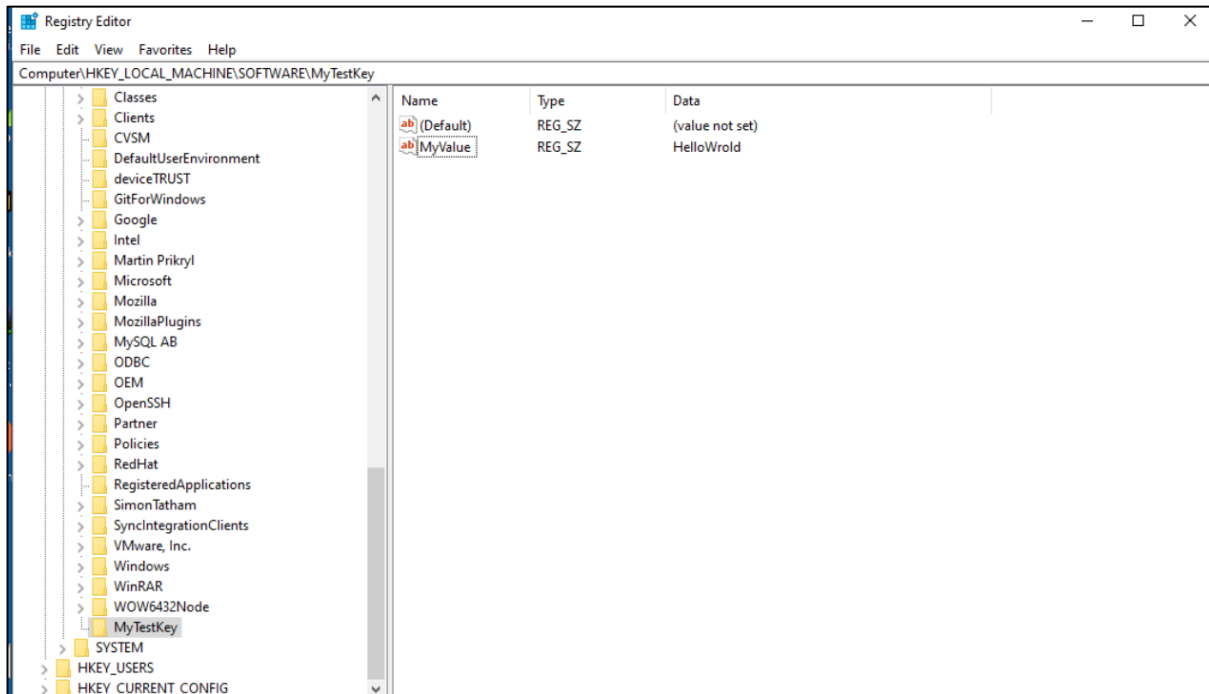
- Save your modified MSI with a new name (e.g., Firefox_Custom.msi)



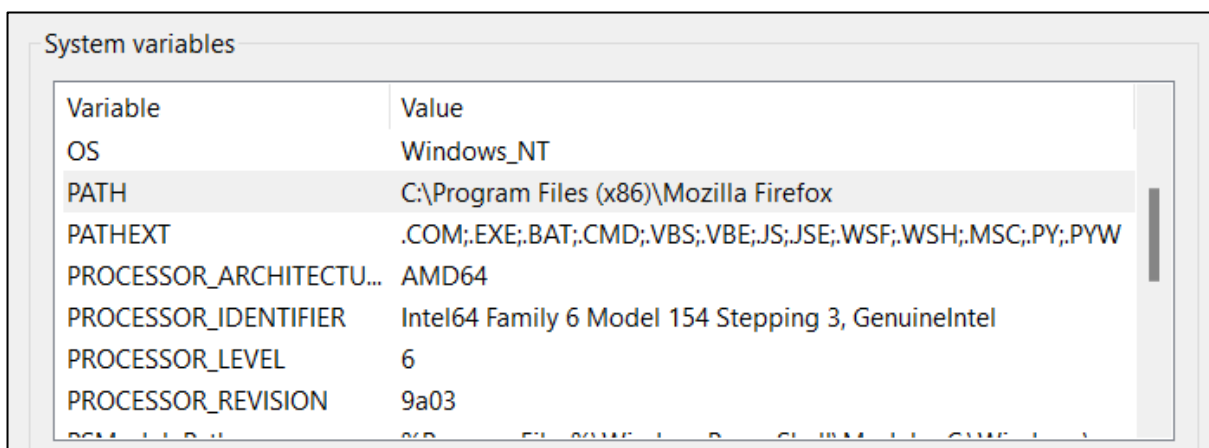
Step 7: Then open the **Firefox_Custom.msi** and install it if there exist firefox then **uninstall** the old one and **install** the new modified Firefox_Custom.msi

To Check the Environment variables, Registry Editor and File deletion

Registry Editor



Environment Variable



Conclusion

- Orca allows powerful **customization** of MSI behavior
- By manually editing **Environment**, **RemoveFile**, and **Registry** tables, we can Set environment variables, Clean up unnecessary files, Configure registry entries, etc
- These techniques are **valuable** for software packaging, enterprise deployment, and system integration.