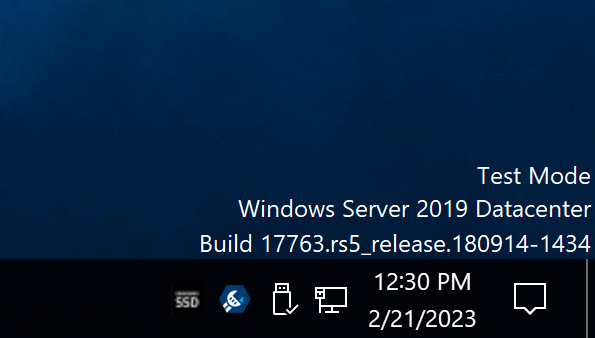
# Convert WIM File to FFU File

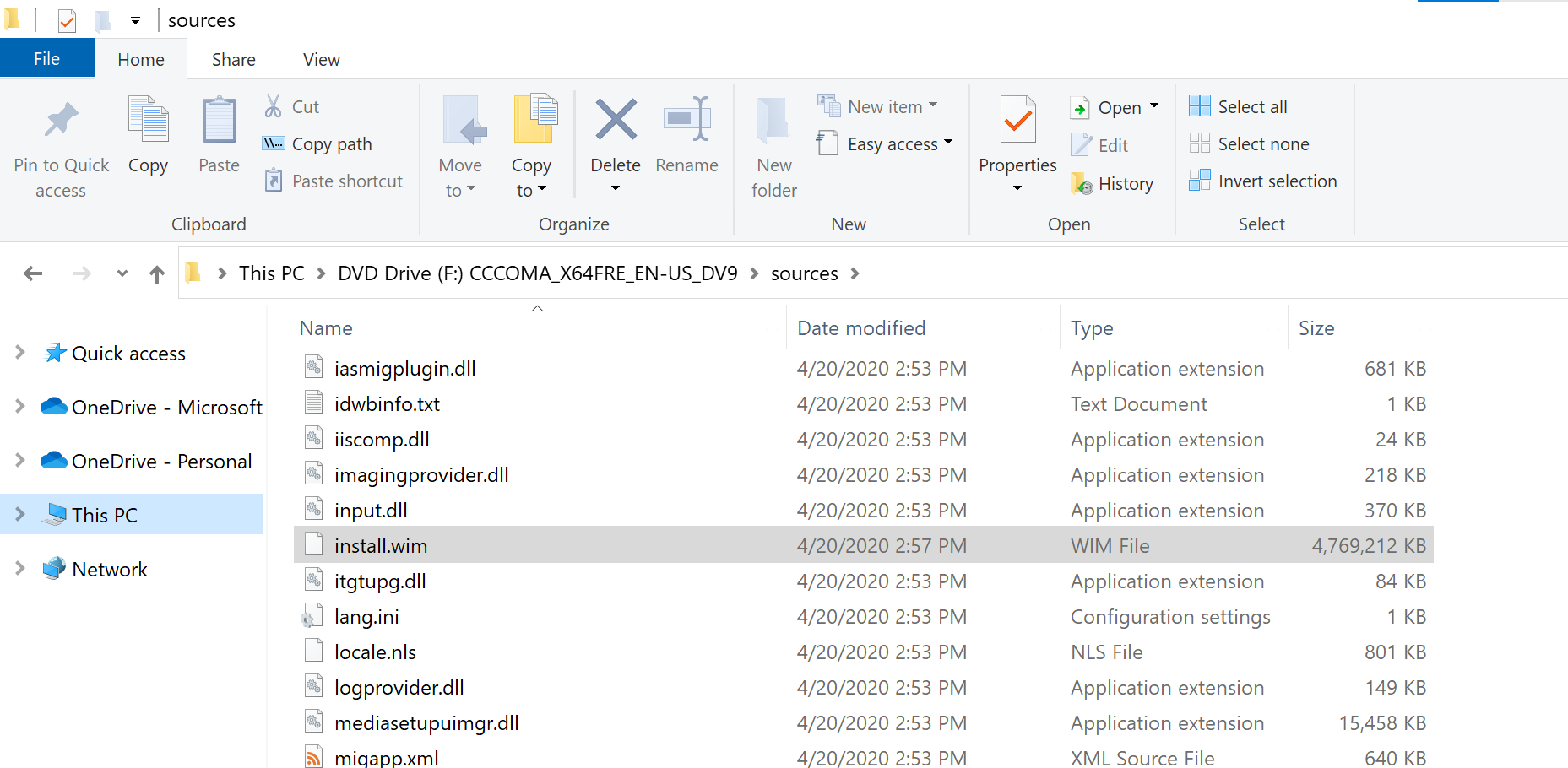
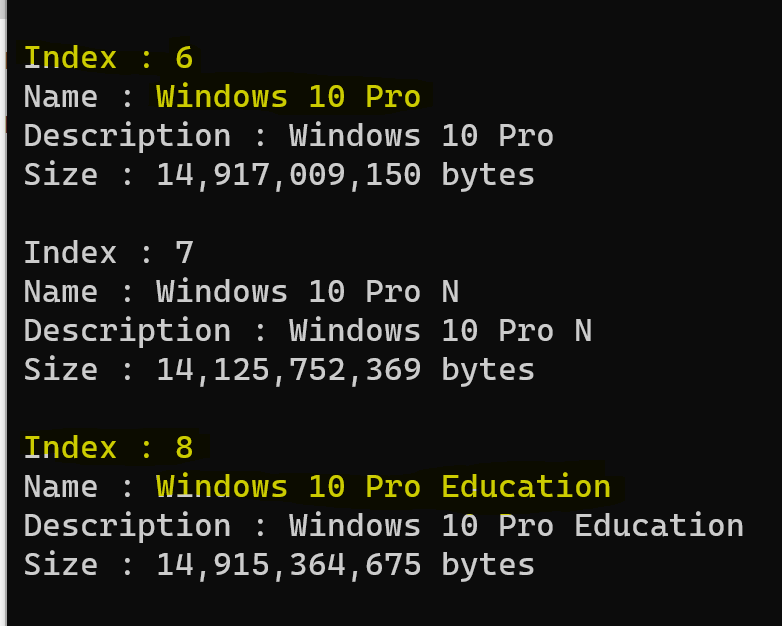
The following guide will convert a Windows Image file (install.wim) to a Full-Flash Update file. It does this by creating a VHDX file with the appropriate partitions for Windows to be installed to, then captures the VHDX file as a FFU file. Use this method if you want to quickly create a FFU without installing any apps.

1. You can use this method on either Windows 10/11 or Windows Server. It’s recommended to run this on Windows 11 as it seems that FFUs that are generated from a Windows 11 system are faster to deploy. It’s possible this is due to the lack of Windows Overlay Filter support in Windows Server, which means it won’t support compacting the Windows installation when it’s copied to the VHDX. This is anecdotal evidence, but something that has been observed. We’ve seen a Windows 11 22H2 FFU captured from a Windows 11 machine take about 2.5 minutes to copy to a destination machine vs 4.5 minutes for a FFU that was captured from a Windows Server 2019 machine.
2. Install the Hyper-V PowerShell module by running the following command as an Administrator (this will not enable Hyper-V on your machine, it will only install the PS module):  
     
   **Enable-WindowsOptionalFeature -Online -FeatureName "Microsoft-Hyper-V-Management-PowerShell" -All**
3. Install the latest Windows Assessment and Deployment Kit (ADK)   
     
   **You’ll need to do the following until Windows 23H2 is released**  
     
   Download and install the Insider Preview of the Windows ADK and the Windows PE add-on for the Windows ADK. This is due to a bug with optimizing ffu files which was fixed as of the 25295 version of the ADK. This will eventually roll up into the 23H2 version of the Windows ADK.  
     
   <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/software-download/windowsinsiderpreviewADK>

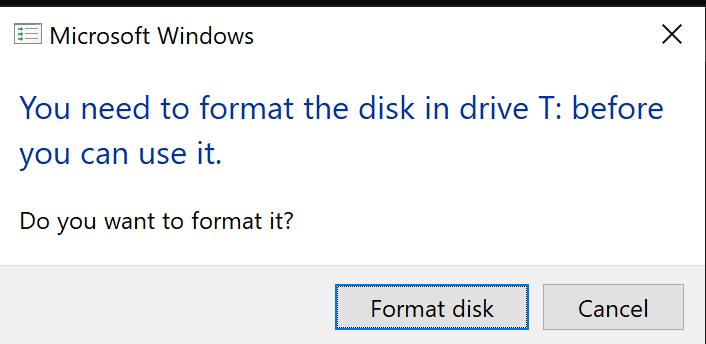
Install the Windows ADK first. When installing the Windows ADK, you only need the **Deployment Tools** feature checked. Take the defaults for the rest of the setup wizard.  
  
Graphical user interface, text, application, email

Description automatically generated  
  
Install the WinPE add-on next. Install with default settings.

Flight Signing needs to be enabled in order for dism from the Insider ADK to run.  
  
If you’re using a non-Windows Insider build, flight signing needs to be enabled.  
  
Go to **Start – search for Command Prompt – right click Command Prompt** and select **Run as Administrator**  
  
Run **bcdedit /set testsigning on**  
  
**Reboot** the machine  
  
After reboot, you should see a water mark on the desktop indicating Test Mode is enabled.  
  
  
  
Note – For security reasons, it’s best to only enable test signing when necessary. This will only need to be done until the Windows 23H2 ADK is released. Once that’s released, the dism fixes that are needed will be rolled up into the 23H2 ADK. Once you’ve finished building your FFU, it’s best to turn off flight signing (you’ll do that at the end of this guide).

1. Download the Windows ISO from Visual Studio downloads, or the Windows Media Creation Tool. If you don’t have access to Visual Studio downloads, download the Windows Media Creation Tool from either of these links:  
     
   [Windows Media Creation Tool for Windows 10](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/software-download/windows10)  
   [Windows Media Creation Tool for Windows 11](https://www.microsoft.com/en-ca/software-download/windows11)  
     
   **It’s recommended that you download consumer media**, not business media or media obtained from VLSC. This is because Subscription Activation will fail if the media is mismatched from the key in the firmware. If you plan on using a MAK or KMS to activate, you can use media from VLSC, but if you expect the device to activate automatically and upgrade to Enterprise or Education SKUs via Subscription Activation, you must use consumer media.
2. Once downloaded, **right-click the ISO** and select **mount** to mount the ISO.
3. Once mounted, **copy the x:\sources\install.wim** (where x: is the drive letter windows created to use as the mount drive) to your **c:\FFUDevelopment\wimToFFU folder** (e.g. c:\FFUDevelopment\wimToFFU\install.wim)  
     
   
4. Windows image files come with several different SKUs in the form of indexes. You’ll need to know which indexes you’ll want to create FFU’s from. As of Windows 10 2004, there are 11 indexes in the consumer editions ISO. **We want indexes 6 and 8 for Pro and Pro Education**.  
     
   You can get the indexes by running the following dism command:  
     
   **dism /get-imageinfo /imagefile:** **c:\FFUDevelopment\wimToFFU\install.wim**
5. To capture Windows 10/11 Pro:
   1. **Click Start** – type **Deployment and Imaging Tools Environment** – **Right Click Deployment and Imaging Tools Environment** and select **Run as Administrator**
   2. Type **Powershell** and hit **Enter**
   3. Run the below command  
        
      **.\Convert-WimToFfu.ps1 -WimPath .\install.wim -WimIndex 6 -FFUPath .\Win11\_22H2\_Pro.ffu -FirmwareType UEFI -Force -SkipMSRPartition -OptimizeFFU**

**IMPORTANT** –You must run the script through the Deployment and Imaging tools command prompt when using the Windows Insider ADK. If you don’t and you simply run via Powershell, you’ll be using the inbox version of dism, which is older than the ADK version that is provided in the Deployment and Imaging tools environment and OptimizeFFU will not work and your FFU may not apply to your destination machine.

Note – When running, you may see a dialog window that says you need to format the disk followed by some File Explorer windows popping up. **Click Cancel**. This typically happens on older releases of Windows 10. Newer builds of Windows 11 shouldn’t show these dialogs. **Do not click Format disk**  
  
****

1. Disable Flight Signing  
     
   Go to **Start – search for Command Prompt – right click Command Prompt** and select **Run as Administrator**  
     
   Run **bcdedit /set testsigning off**  
     
   **Reboot** the machine  
     
   After reboot, the water mark on the desktop that says Test Mode should be gone.

# Deploy FFU

The following steps are the same as the ones from the BuildandDeployFFU.docx guide. If you’ve already created your deployment USB media, you don’t need to do these steps again.

# Create WinPE Deployment Media

1. On the PC you installed the Windows ADK and PE to click **Start** – and type **Deployment and Imaging Tools**
2. **Right click** on **Deployment and Imaging Tools Environment** and select **Run as Administrator**
3. Type **C:\FFUDevelopment\BuildWinPEDeploymentMedia.cmd** and hit **Enter**  
     
   There should be a WinPE\_FFU\_Deploy.iso file in the C:\FFUDevelopment folder  
     
   **OPTIONAL**

If you need to add drivers, edit the BuildWinPECaptureMedia.cmd file and remove the REM from the below line in the BuildWinPEDeploymentMedia.cmd file and modify the /Drivers path to include the path to the drivers you need. You might need storage/network or even keyboard drivers (some Surface devices have keyboards that don’t work in WinPE)

REM dism /image:C:\FFUDevelopment\WinPE\mount /Add-Driver /Driver:<Path to Drivers folder e.g c:\drivers> /Recurse

# Prepare Dual Partition USB 3+ drive

Get a USB 3+ drive/stick. It’s not recommended to use USB 2 drives as they are significantly slower. You’ll want to get one that’s at least 16GB. Due to the FFU being > 4GB in size, we need to create two different partitions on a USB drive to boot to Windows PE and install the FFU file. Follow the below commands to create a new USB drive

1. Open Powershell as administrator and run the following commands
2. Diskpart
3. List disk
4. Sel disk X (where X is the number of your USB drive)
5. Clean
6. Create Part Primary size=2048
7. Assign
8. Active
9. Format fs=fat32 quick Label=”Boot”
10. Create part primary
11. Assign
12. Format fs=ntfs quick Label=”Deploy”
13. Exit

# Mount WinPE ISO and copy contents to USB Boot partition

1. Navigate to **c:\FFUDeployment**
2. **Right-click** on **WinPE\_FFU\_Deploy.iso** and select **Mount**
3. File Explorer should take you to the mounted contents of the ISO file. It should look like this:

This pc DVD Drive DVD ROM 
Name 
bg-bg 
800t 
da-dk 
de-de 
el-gr 
en-gb 
en-us 
es-nu 
fr-ca 
fr-fr 
hr-hr 
hu-hu 
ja-jp 
ko-kr 
It-It 
IV-Iv 
nb-no 
PI-PI 
pt-br 
sk-sk 
sl-si 
sources 
sr-latn-rs 
sv-se 
uk-ua 
zh-tw 
bootmgr 
C] bootmgr .efi 

1. Copy the entire contents of this drive and paste it to the Boot drive of your USB drive

# Copy the Windows FFU files to the Deploy drive of your USB drive

1. In your **c:\FFUDeployment** folder there should be a FFU file you captured previously. Copy that file to your Deploy drive.

You can copy one or multiple FFU files to your Deploy drive. If only one file is copied, the ApplyFFU.ps1 script in WinPE will apply just that file. If there are multiple files, a menu option will be presented to allow you to choose which FFU to apply.

It is recommended to choose the Windows SKU that matches what the OEM installed on the device. For example, if you purchased devices that come with Windows 10 Pro Education, use the Windows 10 Pro Education FFU. The reason for this is due to activation. Windows will automatically activate the device if the SKU matches the key that is embedded in the firmware. This is important when used in conjunction with Windows Subscription Activation as Subscription Activation will leverage the key in the firmware to activate the device and step the device up to either Enterprise or Education depending on which key is detected in the firmware.

# Driver Support (optional but recommended)

Adding drivers is not necessary in most cases, however it will result in a better experience on the device. If you do not add drivers, Windows Update will update the device. The first logged on user will see driver installation pop ups as WU installs the drivers. If IT will be signing on first, they can deal with the driver prompts and validation before delivering to the end user.

If you would like to add drivers, there are two ways to do it.

1. Mount the FFU and inject them directly into the FFU file using DISM
2. Create a drivers folder on your Deploy partition and copy your drivers there (e:\drivers\Lenovo 300e) (recommended)

The first option will result in faster imaging. This option is good if imaging the same model in an environment many times. It is not recommended to inject drivers of many models. Doing so will increase the driver store considerably. When dealing with devices that have limited storage, you run the risk of running out of disk space. You could create your own FFU per model with only the drivers injected for that specific model.

The second option is easier; however, it will take longer to image. This is due to dism injecting the drivers on the fly. The time it takes will depend on how many drivers are added and the size of the drivers.

## Having DISM inject drivers on the fly (recommended)

Simply create a folder on the deploy partition called drivers. Inside that folder, create sub-folders for each model you will be imaging. If imaging multiple models, a pick list will show up asking which set of drivers to install.

Graphical user interface, application

Description automatically generated

## How to inject drivers into FFU

1. If you haven’t already, download the drivers you wish to install for the model you are deploying. Normally, OEMs will provide an enterprise SCCM cab/zip of the drivers. Some, however, do not, especially for the low-cost EDU devices (Lenovo doesn’t for the 14W, 100e, 300e. They require individual downloads for each component, which are all exes). Don’t forget to extract the drivers.   
     
   The 3189 driver cab looks like this once extracted  
     
   A screenshot of a cell phone

   Description automatically generated

For Lenovo devices, each exe can be extracted via the command line using:  
  
Filename.exe /VERYSILENT /Extract="Yes" /DIR=<PathToWhereYouWantToExtractTo>

1. **Right-click Start Menu** icon and select **Windows Powershell (Admin)**
2. Run **mkdir c:\mount**
3. Run **Dism /Mount-Image /ImageFile:"<PathToFFUFile>" /Index:1 /MountDir:"C:\mount"**  
   (where <PathToFFUFile> is the location of your FFU e.g. e:\Win10\_1903\_Pro\_Edu.ffu)
4. Run **dism /image:C:\mount /Add-Driver /Driver:<PathToDriverFiles> /Recurse**   
   (Replace the c:\temp\drivers with the location of your extracted driver files)
5. Run **Dism /Unmount-Image /MountDir:C:\mount /commit**

# Device Naming (optional but recommended)

**New as of June 2020**

Device naming can be done from PE. The way this works is by leveraging an unattend.xml file to either take input from the user at imaging time or read a list of prefix values and append the serial number of the device. There are some major benefits to doing this:

1. Total deployment time is reduced if naming is set at FFU deployment time since there is no additional reboot done during OOBE.
2. Reduces the need for multiple provisioning packages or autopilot profiles. This means you can use a single PPKG or autopilot profile.
3. Allow for future considerations on how to customize/automate device naming in the future

**IMPORTANT – If using a provisioning package or autopilot json file, DO NOT specify a name in either of these. They will overwrite the name you have specified in the unattend.xml.**

By leveraging the unattend.xml, you can also add additional steps during the specialize phase to customize the experience even further.

## Prompt to enter name

1. Create a folder on the deploy partition of the USB drive named **unattend**
2. In the unattend folder, create a file named **unattend.xml** (this file has already been created if you downloaded this from aka.ms/ffu or the internal Microsoft FFU deployment share . It is in the unattend folder in that location).
3. The contents of the unattend.xml file should be the following  
     
   <?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>

<unattend xmlns="urn:schemas-microsoft-com:unattend">

<settings pass="specialize">

<component name="Microsoft-Windows-Shell-Setup" processorArchitecture="amd64" publicKeyToken="31bf3856ad364e35" language="neutral" versionScope="nonSxS" xmlns:wcm="http://schemas.microsoft.com/WMIConfig/2002/State" xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance">

<ComputerName>MyComputer</ComputerName>

</component>

</settings>

</unattend>

Graphical user interface, text

Description automatically generated

If this file is located during imaging, the user will be prompted to enter a name before the FFU is applied to the device.

## Specifying Multiple Name Prefixes

If you have multiple device name prefixes for different locations or device use cases, or even a single prefix, you can specify a prefixes.txt file in the unattend folder. If the prefixes.txt file is detected and a single prefix is listed, the device will just use that prefix and append the serial number of the device. If there are multiple prefixes listed in the prefixes.txt file, you will be prompted to select which prefix you want to name the device and the serial number will be appended to that prefix. If you want a dash in the name, include the dash in the prefix (e.g. if ABCD- is in the prefixes.txt file, the device name will be ABCD-*SerialNumber*).

1. Follow the previous steps used to create the unattend folder and the unattend.xml file.
2. Create a file named **prefixes.txt** in the **unattend** folder
3. In the prefixes.txt file, enter one prefix per line and save the file

Your folder should look like the following

Graphical user interface, text

Description automatically generated

Your prefixes.txt file should look similar to the following image

Graphical user interface, text, application

Description automatically generated

# Device Enrollment

There are three common ways to enroll new devices using this method to Azure AD and Intune

1. Autopilot
2. Provisioning packages
3. Autopilot for Existing Devices

If using Autopilot, your devices should already be registered, and an Autopilot profile should be assigned to them. At this point, you can Insert the USB drive to your device and boot from it.

However, if your devices aren’t enrolled into Autopilot, you can either use a Provisioning Package, or Autopilot for Existing devices.

Generally, AP or Provisioning Packages are the two common methods of deployment.

The reasons you may want to use Autopilot for existing devices vs. using Provisioning are:

1. Speed of USB drive removal – AP for existing devices allows a technician to remove the USB drive after the device applies the FFU and reboots for the first time. This is because there isn’t a provisioning package. This means you can take the USB drive out sooner and image another device. The FFU usually takes about 2-3 minutes to apply. Once the device reboots after applying the FFU, the drive can be removed if you are not using provisioning packages.
2. Setting up a device for 1:1 usage – AP for existing devices will set user device affinity up for the first user that enrolls the device. In this scenario, any applications deployed as available to users/devices in Intune will only show up for that user in the Company Portal. **Do not use this if the devices will be shared.**

If you’re in a rural location, have poor bandwidth, or are deploying shared devices (laptop carts/labs), provisioning packages are recommended. This guide isn’t designed to go in depth on provisioning packages, but there are ways to include complex apps like contain multiple folders and files. At a high level, you can put all of the content into a WIM file, mount the WIM, and install the apps. We’ll provide a guide on this at a later date.

# Optional - Copy provisioning package to the USB drive

**Process changed as of June 2020**

**Recommended for shared devices or devices that may be used 1:1 for now, but could be shared later and won’t be reimaged**

If you plan to use a provisioning package to enroll a device, follow the following steps.

1. On the **deploy partition** of your device, **create a new folder** named **PPKG**
2. Copy one or multiple .PPKG files to the PPKG folder

In June 2020, this process changed to allow for multiple provisioning packages to exist on a single USB drive. If multiple packages are detected, a menu will display each package and ask you to select which package to install. This is useful for organizations that have different packages for different use cases, packages configured for wired vs wireless scenarios, different device names, etc. and do not want to swap packages or have multiple USB drives.

Do NOT place a PPKG file on the BOOT partition of your USB drive AND create a PPKG folder on the deploy partition with one or multiple PPKG files in the folder. This will cause Windows to see two eligible PPKG files to be used during OOBE, which will result in you having to select which package to use at OOBE, slowing the overall process down.

**Important – If you set up the device naming method mentioned earlier, make sure to remove the ComputerName (or DNSComputerName) from your provisioning package. If you do not remove the ComputerName (or DNSComputerName) from the package, the package will overwrite the name you specified via the device naming method earlier. The Accounts node in your provisioning package should look like the following image.**  
  
Graphical user interface, text, application, email

Description automatically generated

# Optional - Using Autopilot for Existing Devices

If you want to configure your media to be able to Autopilot enroll any device, you can use Autopilot for existing devices.

This requires you to create a folder on your **Deploy** drive called **autopilot** and insert an AutopilotConfigurationFile.json file in that folder (E:\autopilot\AutopilotConfigurationFile.json). When the device finishes installing the FFU, it will copy the json file to C:\Windows\Provisioning\Autopilot\AutopilotConfigurationFile.json.

**Note –** AP for existing devices only works for User Driven profiles. It does not work for Self-Deploying or Pre-Provisioning scenarios. It also does not register the device into Autopilot. You can deploy an Autopilot Profile to a group that this device will end up in and select the setting **Convert all targeted devices to Autopilot**.

## Create User Driven Autopilot Profile

Make sure you're using User Driven Profiles (Self Deploying profiles don't work with Offline). In this example, we will query this profile by the display name of the profile. In this case, we'll be using User Driven as the display name.

1. In Intune, go to **Device Enrollment – Windows Enrollment – Deployment Profiles**
2. **Click Create Profile**
3. For **Name,** type in **User Driven** (the name MUST be User Driven for the powershell command to work later)
4. For **Convert all targeted devices to Autopilot** select **Yes**Note – do this in production environments where you want the devices to be autopilot enrolled. This will allow any devices with this profile targeted to go through the Autopilot workflow if the device is reimaged or reset. If you’re working in a lab environment where the devices you use may also be used for demoing provisioning scenarios (SUSPC, WCD) then make sure to set this to NO. You will still get the AP behavior when you use the json file if this is set to No, but the device isn’t really in Autopilot, so it can be used for provisioning and other scenarios later.

A screenshot of a cell phone

Description automatically generated

1. For OOBE settings, configure like below, making sure to select **deployment mode** as **User-Driven** and **Join to Azure AD** as **Azure AD Joined**  
   A screenshot of a cell phone

   Description automatically generated
2. Click **Next** through the rest of the wizard (even on the Assignments tab as you do not have to assign this profile to a group). On the Review + create tab, click **Create.**

## Install Azure AD, WindowsAutopilotIntune, Intune Graph Powershell modules

Open Powershell as an admin

**Run Install-Module AzureAD**

At the untrusted repository message, type Y or A

**Run Install-Module WindowsAutopilotIntune**

At the untrusted repository message, type Y or A  
**Run Install-Module Microsoft.Graph.Intune**

At the untrusted repository message, type Y or A

## Get the User Driven Autopilot profile and convert to JSON

Still in Powershell, run **Connect-MSGraph**

Type in your credentials

The below command will query for our Autopilot Profile with the display name User Driven. It will then convert the profile to the JSON format and save the file to your desktop as **AutoPilotConfigurationFile.json** and encode it using ASCII (must be saved as ASCII and it must use this exact name)

Run the following command

**Get-AutoPilotProfile |? {$\_.displayname -like '\*User Driven\*'} | ConvertTo-AutoPilotConfigurationJSON | Out-File -FilePath $env:userprofile\desktop\AutoPilotConfigurationFile.json -Encoding ASCII**

1. Go to your desktop and copy the AutopilotConfigurationFile.json file
2. On the **Deploy** drive of your USB drive, make a folder called **autopilot**
3. Copy the **AutopilotConfigurationFile.json** file to the **autopilot** folder  
     
   This should look like the following  
     
   A screenshot of a cell phone

   Description automatically generated

## Multiple Autopilot Configuration Files

If imaging many devices that will go to different locations or have different Autopilot settings, you will need multiple Autpilot profiles which means you will also need multiple AutoPilotConfigurationFile.json files.

Give each file a unique name (e.g. ContosoHighSchool.json, FabrakamMiddleSchool.json) and store them in your autopilot folder. If multiple files are detected, you will be prompted for which file you want to use.

# Insert USB drive into target PC

Boot your device from the USB drive. Depending on how you have configured the USB drive, you’ll either be prompted for a device name, FFU file, drivers, Autopilot, or PPKG files. If you just have a single FFU file, single driver package (or no driver package), a single device name prefix defined, and either a single autopilot or PPKG file, then no prompts are expected and device imaging should begin automatically.

# Optional - Copying a custom WinRE.wim

If you are deploying a device that does not have built in drivers in Windows, three things need to be updated

1. WinPE (Storage and possibly keyboard/mouse drivers)
2. Each FFU file (Storage and network drivers)
3. WinRE (Storage and possibly keyboard/mouse drivers)

You can create your own custom WinRE.wim file with the appropriate drivers. Keep in mind that the version of WinRE must match the version of Windows you are deploying.

Your Deploy partition should look like the following:

A screenshot of a cell phone

Description automatically generated

A screenshot of a cell phone

Description automatically generated

# Optional – Adding Multiple Components using unattend.xml

**New as of June 2022**

In prior releases, only a single component could be used, and it was used primarily to set the device name while in PE to help speed up imaging.

The ApplyFFU.ps1 script has been updated to allow multiple components to be specified in the specialize phase.

In the example below, we’re able to set the device name and run a command to set the date. This can be useful in scenarios where the device date is so old that AzureAD doesn’t allow it to enroll.

See the previous section **Device Naming (optional but recommended)** for how to configure the USB drive to leverage the unattend.xml file.

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>

<unattend xmlns="urn:schemas-microsoft-com:unattend">

  <settings pass="specialize">

    <component name="Microsoft-Windows-Shell-Setup" processorArchitecture="amd64" publicKeyToken="31bf3856ad364e35" language="neutral" versionScope="nonSxS" xmlns:wcm="http://schemas.microsoft.com/WMIConfig/2002/State" xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance">

      <ComputerName>A-006259610866</ComputerName>

    </component>

    <component name="Microsoft-Windows-Deployment" processorArchitecture="amd64" publicKeyToken="31bf3856ad364e35" language="neutral" versionScope="nonSxS" xmlns:wcm="http://schemas.microsoft.com/WMIConfig/2002/State" xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance">

      <RunAsynchronous>

        <RunAsynchronousCommand wcm:action="add">

          <Path>cmd /c date 05-31-2022</Path>

          <Order>1</Order>

        </RunAsynchronousCommand>

      </RunAsynchronous>

    </component>

  </settings>

</unattend>

# Troubleshooting

If there are issues, there is a log on the deploy drive that will be created called Scriptlog.txt. That log can be useful in explaining why something failed. Make sure to only have one USB drive plugged into the device and only one hard disk. This process was not tested or validated with multiple USB drives and/or hard disks.

If you have a device that reboots immediately, chances are there are not any storage drivers available for that model. Most Intel-based devices should work fine as Windows has inbox drivers. AMD may not have available drivers. You likely will need to modify the WinPE media to include drivers for your model.