

Active Setup, when integrated with the PowerShell App Deployment Toolkit (PSADT), provides a mechanism to execute per-user changes or configurations upon user login. This is particularly useful for applications that require user-specific settings or file modifications, especially when the application is installed by a privileged account (e.g., SYSTEM) and lacks advertised entry points like shortcuts that would trigger a repair for the current user.

#### How it works with PSADT:

- **Registry Entries:** PSADT's Set-ActiveSetup function creates specific registry entries in HKLM:\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Active Setup\Installed Components\<ProductCode>. These entries define the executable path (StubExePath), arguments, and a version number.
- **User Login Trigger:** When a user logs in, the operating system compares the Active Setup entries in HKLM with those in the user's HKCU hive.
- **Execution Condition:** If the HKCU entry is missing or its version number is lower than the HKLM entry, the executable specified in StubExePath is run for that user.
- **Version Management:** PSADT automatically handles the versioning, typically using a granular timestamp (YYYYMMDDHHMMSS) to ensure Active Setup is triggered even for re-installations on the same day.
- **Per-User Execution:** The Set-ActiveSetup function also includes parameters to control whether the StubExePath is executed for the current user immediately during installation, or only upon subsequent user logins.
- **Cleanup:** The -PurgeActiveSetupKey parameter within Set-ActiveSetup can be used during uninstallation to remove the Active Setup entry from all loaded HKCU hives, ensuring a clean removal. [1]

#### Key Benefits of using PSADT for Active Setup:

- **Standardization:** PSADT provides a structured framework for implementing Active Setup, ensuring consistency across deployments.
- **Automation:** The Set-ActiveSetup function automates the creation and management of Active Setup registry entries.
- **Flexibility:** Parameters within Set-ActiveSetup allow for customization of the executable path, arguments, description, and versioning.
- **Cleanup Capabilities:** The toolkit facilitates the removal of Active Setup entries during uninstallation.

[1] <https://psappdeploytoolkit.com/docs/reference/functions/Set-ADTActiveSetup>