

Answer File Project

Liam Hughes

Unattended Answer File Documentation

Where would this be useful?

In the workplace, to reinstall or install Windows without having to answer any questions. It helps to also set up your computer.

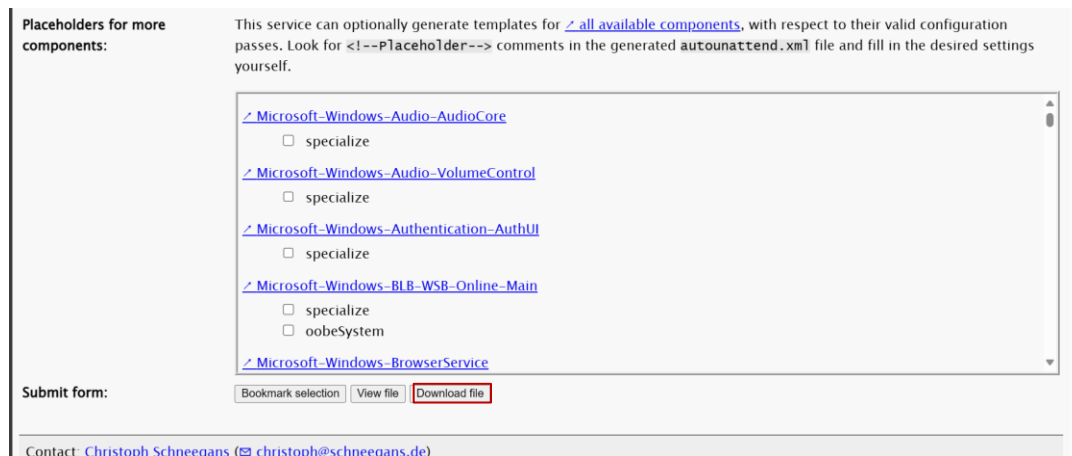
What is an Answer file?

A file that uses .xml to allow the media device to automatically answer the questions in an install and uses itself as a script to do so.

How to make an Unattended Windows 10 Installation:

1. Search and download the windows 10 iso file. [Windows 10 ISO](#)
2. Use the Media Creation Tool downloaded to create an iso file.
3. Select **Next** when necessary.
4. Select **Create Installation Media**.
5. Select **ISO file** option.
6. Select **Next** and place the **Windows.iso** into a location of your choice.
7. Move the **Windows.iso** into a USB using Rufus to make it bootable.
8. Go to an unattended answer file generator. Mine being [Schneegans.de Unattend-generator](#) and fill out the required spaces.
9. Keep **Install Windows using these language settings** marked and make sure it is saying what you believe it should say.
10. Allow the computer name to be randomized unless you want a specific name.
11. Select **Set Your time Zone Explicitly** and choose your time zone.
12. Select **Use a custom diskpart script to configure your disk**.

13. Choose the edition to download by selecting **Use a generic product key**. And going to the dropdown box.
14. Remove the User account and change the password for Administrator.
15. Set the first logon to the administrator account.
16. Select **Skip Wi-Fi Configuration**.
17. Go down to the bottom of the page and select **Download file**.



The screenshot shows a web interface for generating an unattended installation file. On the left, under 'Placeholders for more components:', there is a list of components with checkboxes: 'specialize' for 'Microsoft-Windows-Audio-AudioCore', 'specialize' for 'Microsoft-Windows-Audio-VolumeControl', 'specialize' for 'Microsoft-Windows-Authentication-AuthUI', 'specialize' and 'oobeSystem' for 'Microsoft-Windows-BL8-WSB-Online-Main', and 'Microsoft-Windows-BrowserService'. On the right, a text box explains that the service can generate templates for all available components and that users should look for <!--Placeholder--> comments in the generated autounattend.xml file. At the bottom, there are three buttons: 'Bookmark selection', 'View file', and 'Download file' (which is highlighted with a red box). A contact information line at the very bottom reads: 'Contact: Christoph Schneegans (@ christoph@schneegans.de)'.

18. When the Unattend.xml file downloads add it to your bootable USB.
19. Eject the USB from the current computer and plug it into the computer with the extra SSD.
20. Boot into the USB by selecting F12 and clicking on the USB UEFI partition.

System Image Answer File:

1. Go to an unattended answer file generator. Mine being Schneegans.de [Unattend-generator](#).
2. Go through the same process as before or use your previous one.

3. After you get the autounattend.xml file make sure that you change the name to unattend.xml.
4. When that is done go to your **C:<Windows<Panther** and create a folder named **Unattend**.
5. Put your unattend.xml file into this folder and exit back to **C:<Windows**.
6. When back, head to **C:<Windows<System32<Sysprep** and run **sysprep.exe**. Enable **Generalize** and select OK.
7. On bootup go to **BIOS** and select the USB you have Rescuezilla on.
8. Plug in the USB you want to use to download the image.
9. Do a **Backup** using the information from the Imaging Lab to complete it.
10. Restore the backup you made by using the Imaging Lab.
11. Once the restoration is complete, shut down Rescuezilla and boot into the external drive you are using. (This means either let the boot sequence run or go into **BIOS** and do it manually.)
12. Once you boot in the autounattend file you should start answering the question without you having to touch the keyboard.
13. If you see the **Hi** screen, then you have done it.
14. Once into the desktop show your instructor.