12.7.3 Desktop Application Management Facts

Be aware of the following facts about managing applications.

- Application installation involves more than just copying the executable files to the computer. Installation typically modifies the registry, creates shortcuts, and configures other settings required by the application.
- Installation of an application usually creates a tile on the Start menu and may also create a shortcut on the desktop. A *shortcut* is a pointer file that identifies the location of the executable file that runs the application.
    - Shortcuts that point to removable drives (such as CD/DVD drives) or network drives could become unavailable if the referenced drive is disconnected.
    - During install, you can often choose to add shortcuts for only the current user or all users.
    - The shortcut also identifies a directory that the application uses or references when it first starts. You can modify the directory by changing the **Start in** property for the shortcut or executable file.
- A 64-bit operating system can run both 32-bit and 64-bit applications. However, a 32-bit operating system can run only 32-bit applications.
- By default, applications are installed into the Program Files directory on the root of the system drive.
    - During installation, you typically can specify an alternate install location.
    - 64-bit operating system versions include an additional folder named Program Files (x86). 32-bit applications are installed into this folder.
- Users must have the correct permissions or rights to install applications. The ability to install applications depends on the user's group membership and the operating system:

Group	Permissions
Users	Users who are members of only the Users group are not able to install applications. If you're signed into a limited account, you see a dialog box asking you to enter an administrative password.
Administrators	Only people with administrative privileges can install programs in Windows 10. If you're already logged on with an administrative account, Windows 10 asks you if you want to allow the program to make changes to the computer.

- In some cases, users require special privileges or rights to run applications. For example, legacy applications that access the system in certain ways may require running the application as an administrator.
- Copying an application's shortcut to the C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\Startup folder will cause that application to be automatically launched every time the system is booted. You can also use Task Scheduler to configure an application to run automatically based upon event triggers that you define.
- Many applications as they run create data files (such as documents or video files), and might also require creating temporary files. The user must have sufficient permissions to the directories where the data and temporary files are created.