How to Manually Install Windows Updates from CAB and MSU Files

Windows updates are released as packages with the **MSU** or **CAB** file extensions. If the Windows Update service is not working (or disabled), you can manually download and install the necessary cumulative or security updates for your system. In this article, we’ll show how to download and offline install Windows updates in MSU or CAB formats.

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How to Manually Download the MSU Windows Update File?

Microsoft released security updates and patches in the **CAB** (Windows cabinet) file format. This is the format in which your computer receives updates from Microsoft update servers or the local [WSUS server](https://woshub.com/installing-configuring-wsus-on-windows-server-2012/). To make the manual distribution of separate updates using Microsoft Update Catalog more convenient, these CAB files are packaged in a special **MSU** format (Microsoft Update Standalone Installer Package).

You can download MSU Windows updates files (and sometimes CAB files) or files for other Microsoft products from **Microsoft Update Catalog** (<https://www.catalog.update.microsoft.com/>). Go to Microsoft Update Catalog, [find and download the update you need](https://woshub.com/download-install-windows-updates-manually/). For example, I want to install the *2022-05 Servicing Stack Update for Windows 10 Version 21H2 for x64-based Systems (KB5014032)*. Click the **Download** button.

Move the file *ssu-19041.1704-x64\_70e350118b85fdae082ab7fde8165a947341ba1a.msu* you have downloaded to the C:\temp folder. Rename it to the shorter name *windows10.0-kb4056887-x64.msu.*

Installing Windows Update from MSU File

To start the installation of a Windows update package, just **double-click** the MSU file you have downloaded. If the update is applicable to this computer, a Windows Update Standalone Installer window will open, where you will be prompted to confirm the update installation.

You may receive an error “The update is not applicable to your computer” when installing an MSU update. The reasons for this error are discussed in detail [in the article at the link](https://woshub.com/update-not-applicable-computer/).

You can also install the MSU update package from the command line using the **wusa.exe** tool.

To install the update in a silent mode (a user won’t see any pop-up windows) with a delayed restart, open the command prompt as administrator and run the following command:

wusa.exe c:\Temp\windows10-21h2-kb5014032.msu /quiet /norestart

After a while, check that the update has been successfully installed:

wmic qfe list | findstr 5014032

Or you can find an entry with Event ID 2 from the WUSA source in the Event Viewer -> Windows Logs -> Setup:

Windows update "Security Update for Windows (KB5014032)" was successfully installed. (Command line: "wusa.exe c:\Temp\windows10-21h2-kb5014032.msu /quiet /norestart")

Please note that the installation of updates in **MSU** format in Windows via wusa.exe is slower than when installing the same update as **the CAB** file. The reason is that an additional scan is performed on the Windows Update/WSUS servers.

How to Extract a CAB File from an MSU Update Package?

If the Windows Update service (wuausrv) is not working correctly, you will not be able to install the update from the MSU file. In this case, you can manually unpack the MSU package, extract the CAB update file from it, and manually install it on Windows.

You can [reset the Windows Update agent components](https://woshub.com/reset-windows-update-agent-and-service-to-default/) to restore the wuauserv functionality.

In order to extract the MUS package into the C:\Temp\kb4056887 folder, run this command (you have to create this folder in advance):

expand -f:\* “C:\Temp\windows10.0-kb4056887-x64.msu” C:\Temp\kb4056887

Microsoft (R) File Expansion Utility Version 10.0.10011.16384  
Copyright (c) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.  
Adding C:\Tmp\kb4056887\WSUSSCAN.cab to Extraction Queue  
Adding C:\Tmp\kb4056887\Windows10.0-KB4056887-x64.cab to Extraction Queue  
Adding C:\Tmp\kb4056887\Windows10.0-KB4056887-x64-pkgProperties.txt to Extraction Queue  
Adding C:\Tmp\kb4056887\Windows10.0-KB4056887-x64.xml to Extraction Queue  
Expanding Files ….  
Expanding Files Complete …  
4 files total.

As you can see, 4 file types have appeared in the folder:

* An **.xml** file (Windows10.0-KB4056887-x64.xml) –  contains MSU package metadata and used by wusa.exe;
* A **.cab** file (Windows10.0-KB4056887-x64.cab — one or more) – is an cabinet (archive) with Windows update;
* **\*pkgProperties.txt** file (Windows10.0-KB4056887-x64-pkgProperties.txt) –  contains package properties (release date, architecture, package type, a link to the KB, etc.).

You can also open any MSU file with the 7-ZIP and extract the CAB file from it.

Install a CAB Update File on Windows 10/11

You can install a CAB update file in two ways.

The most common way to install an update from a CAB file is using **DISM.exe**. The installation command can look like this:

DISM.exe /Online /Add-Package /PackagePath:c:\Temp\kb4056887\Windows10.0-KB4056887-x64.cab

Deployment Image Servicing and Management tool

Version: 10.0.10240.16384

Image Version: 10.0.10240.16384

Processing 1 of 1 — Adding package Package\_for\_KB4056887~31bf3856ad364e35~amd64~~10.0.1.0

[==========================100.0%==========================]

The operation completed successfully.

**Note**. Note how fast installing a CAB package through DISM is compared to installing an update from an MSU file with wusa.exe.

If you have to install a CAB package in a silent mode with a later restart, use the following DISM command:

start /wait DISM.exe /Online /Add-Package /PackagePath: c:\Temp\kb4056887\Windows10.0-KB4056887-x64.cab /Quiet /NoRestart

The DISM.exe /Add-Package command allows you to install an MSU update as well (only the offline Windows image is supported). You can use the /PackagePath parameter to specify a path to the directory where the MSU and CAB update files are stored. DISM will recursively scan the specified directory and subfolders and installs any found CAB and MSU update packages into the Windows image.

Note that the DISM.exe /Add-Package command doesn’t check dependencies and environment requirements when adding a CAB file to a Windows image (unlike wusa.exe which first checks if an MSU update is applicable to the computer).

To install CAB files in a Windows image, you can use the PowerShell command Add-WindowsPackage -Online -PackagePath "C:\win10\_kb123456.cab" instead of the DISM /Add-Package command.

On Windows 8 and Windows 7, you can install a CAB update using the **Pkgmgr** command:

start /w Pkgmgr /ip /m:c:"c:\Temp\kb4056887\Windows10.0-KB4056887-x64.cab"

**Note.** The PkgMgr.exe package manager is no longer supported in Windows 10/11 and Windows Server 2016/2019. When you run it, you receive a warning that you need to use DISM.exe to manage the packages.

Note: The PkgMgr.exe has been deprecated. Please update your scripts to use dism.exe to extract, install, uninstall, configure and update features and packages for Windows. Operation failed with 0x80070003.

**Note**. Please note that Windows language packs (MUI) are also distributed in CAB format. However, you won’t be able to use a DISM command to install them. You will have to use a separate **lpksetup.exe** tool, to install new languages in your system instead.

You can add the option to install CAB files to the File Explorer context menu. To do this, import the following \*.reg file into the registry:

Windows Registry Editor Version 5.00

[-HKEY\_CLASSES\_ROOT\CABFolder\Shell\RunAs]

[HKEY\_CLASSES\_ROOT\CABFolder\Shell\RunAs]

@="Install CAB"

"HasLUAShield"=""

[HKEY\_CLASSES\_ROOT\CABFolder\Shell\RunAs\Command]

@="cmd /k dism /online /add-package /packagepath:\"%1\""

Now to install the CAB file you just need to select **Install** from the context menu.

Bulk Install Multiple MSU or CAB Update Files with PowerShell/Batch

If you need to install multiple CAB or MSU updates on a computer at once, you can use BAT and PowerShell scripts. Thanks to such scripts, you don’t have to install updates manually one by one.

Create a directory on your drive and copy all the Windows MSU update files that you need to install into it. Run the **install\_msu.bat** script in order to install all MSU updates from the specified folder:

Set Folder="C:\updates"  
for %%f in (%Folder%\\*.msu) do (  
wusa.exe %%f /quiet /norestart  
)

Similarly, you can use the following PowerShell script to install MSU updates from a specified folder:

$dir = (Get-Item -Path c:\updates -Verbose).FullName  
Foreach($item in (ls $dir \*.msu -Name))  
{  
echo $item  
$item = $dir + "\" + $item  
wusa $item /quiet /norestart | Out-Null  
}

This guide for manually installing cumulative or any other Windows updates using MSU and CAB files applies to all supported Windows OS versions: Windows 11/10/8.1/7 and 2022/2019/2016/2012R2/2008R2.