How to Extract and Repack Installed Apps in W10M

Coverage of the Guide

Windows 10 Mobile (Lumia) Group :- https://t.me/Windows10Phone

1. How to Extract an App from the phone

There are two ways to Extract an App from the phone

  I.   Without a PC by third party apps
 II.   Via Mass Storage Mode

How to Extract an App without a PC

Pre Requirements :-

- An Interop unlocked W10M device

For X50 :- https://mega.nz/#F!2FxWHb5T!7pKkVuEzvb2zqve9FYxOvg

All Other Lumia :- https://mega.nz/#F!GAxE0JYD!ffm_dTmfmYbBuD1jMvrUJA

Other OEM :- https://mega.nz/#F!bNxCUJIC!tvG5FnMGMTJjZJ4T0dSkIg
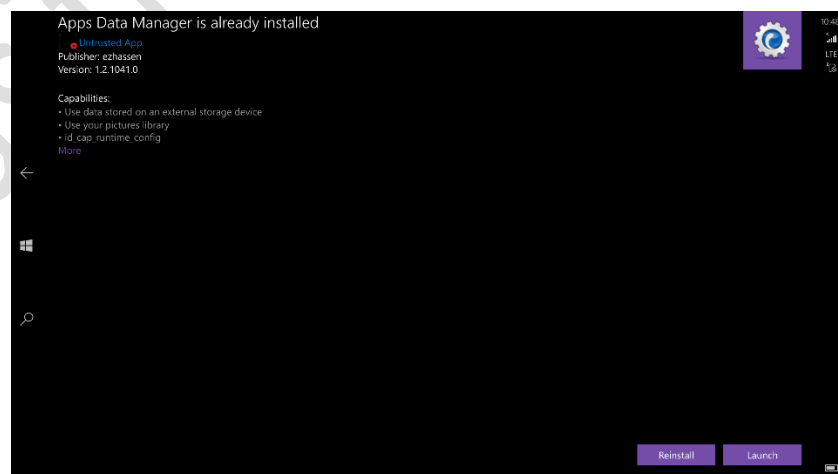
- App Data Manage tool or Apps Data Manager (Apps Data manager is recommended)
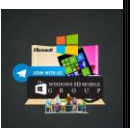
Apps Data Manager :-
https://mega.nz/#!DEgCGZRL!xhy4Jqq18nVKR_Xch9ax_KxqKWPlWxrcFnKSg0xN7PY

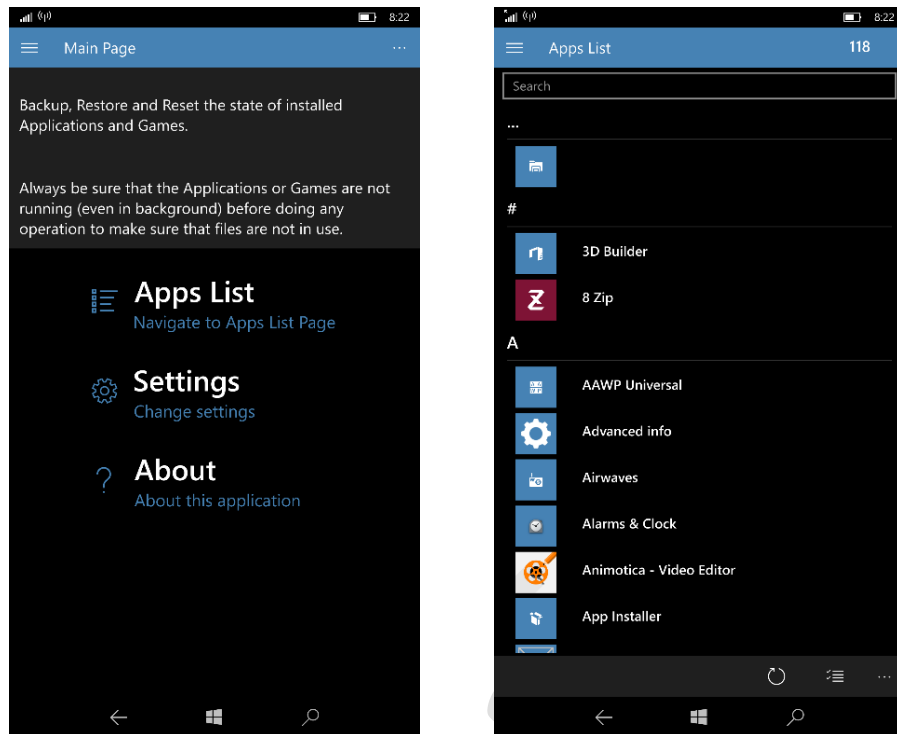> Install either any of the apps, since I prefer Apps Data Manager, I will go along with it

Guide (Appx Install) :- https://mega.nz/#F!iNhAkLQD!1BYw9KvE_dRM5Ysd0DqimQ
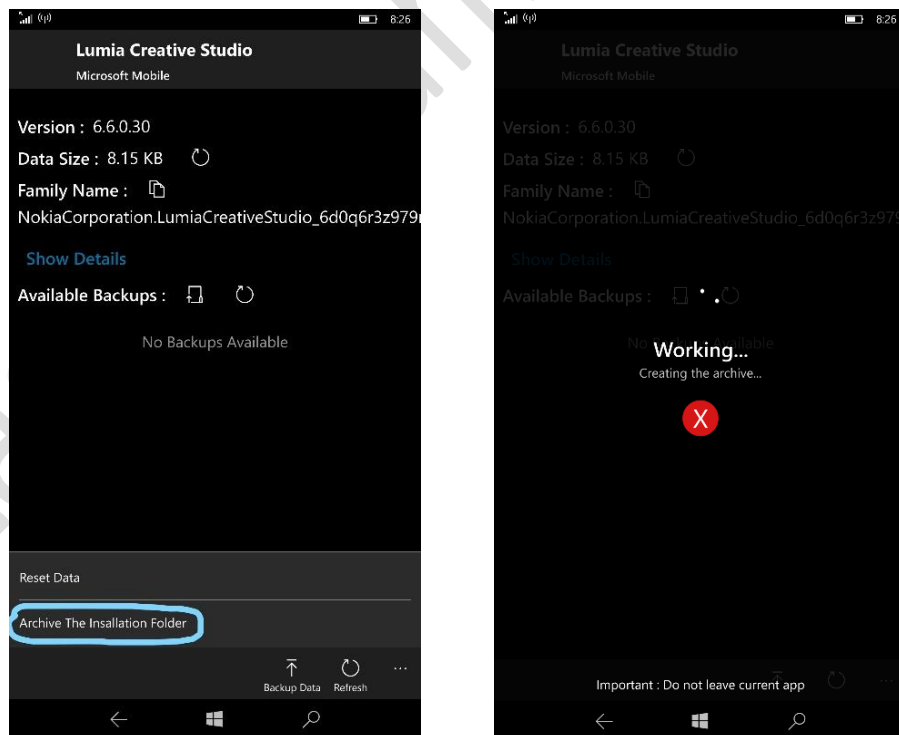

Windows 10 Mobile (Lumia) Group :- https://t.me/Windows10Phone

> Open the App and choose Apps List (If asked for a backup folder, give anywhere you want)
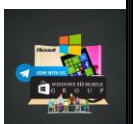

> Now choose the app you want to backup, then click the three dots and do as the pictures

> Don't close or change to another app while it's extracting the App data.

> When finished, Skip to next topic

Windows 10 Mobile (Lumia) Group :- https://t.me/Windows10Phone

How to Extract an App from Mass Storage Mode

* To gain Mass Storage Mode you need to unlock bootloader of your phone, Since I'm not going to describe it here, here's the guide by Gustave Monance ;

https://github.com/WOA-Project/guides/blob/master/WIP-NewGuide.md

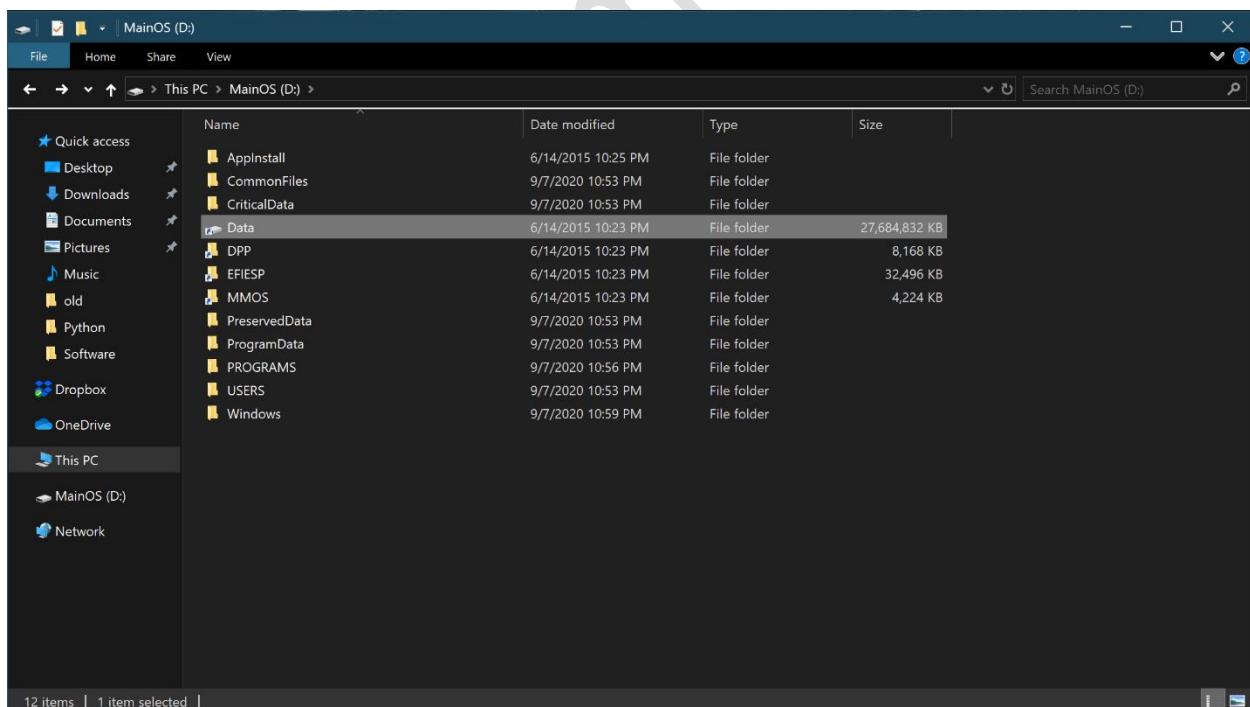*** If you are new to these, go with the first method, using the App**

DO NOT PLAY WITH MASS STORAGE MODE UNLESS YOU HAVE A BACKUP
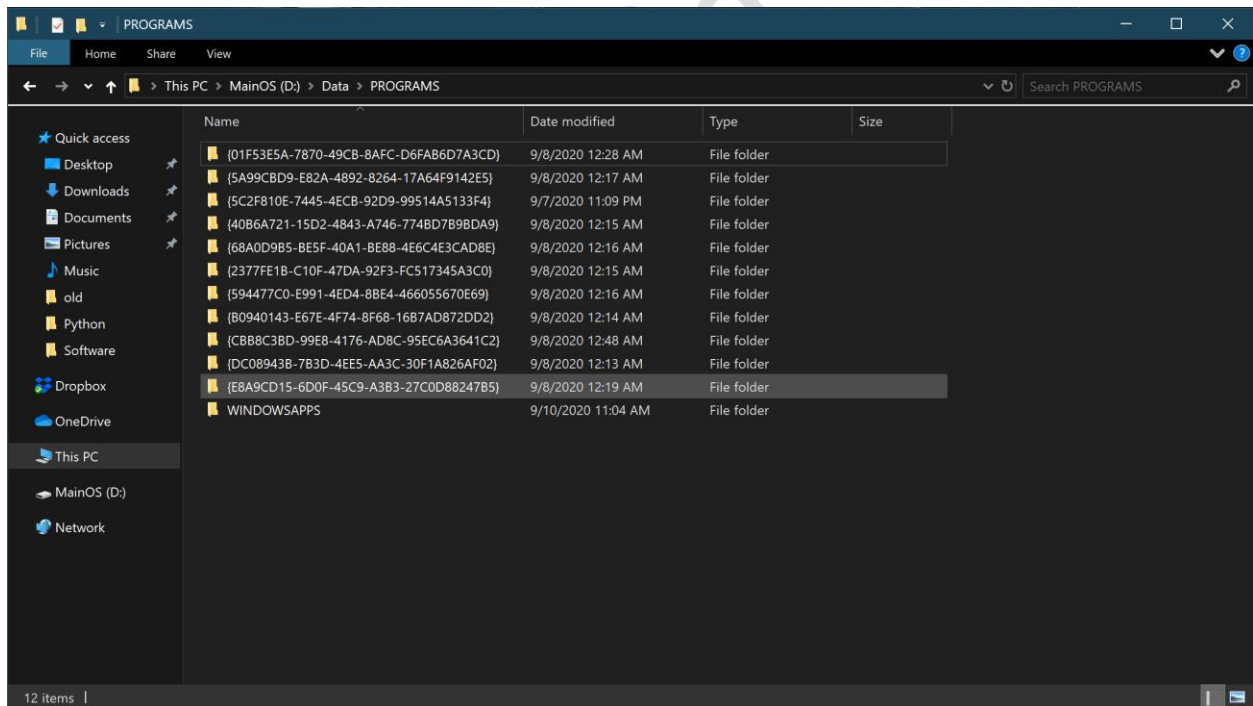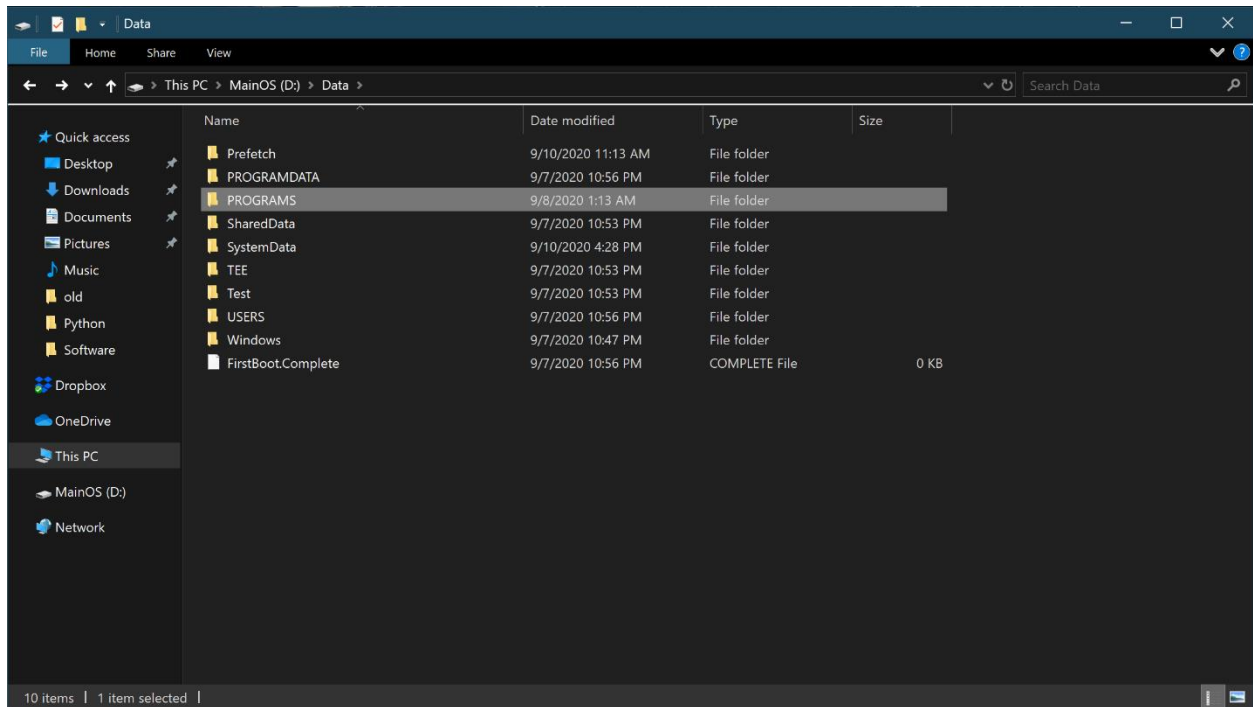
> When you boot into Mass Storage Mode, go here

MainOS → Data → PROGRAMMS

> You probably will not be able to access any of the folders in Programms folder, Gain access by setting ownership of the folder in Properties → security → Advanced, after gained access copy them to anywhere in your PC, don't do anything in Phone !
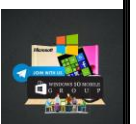
> Here are some Pics to the location ;

> Here contains the Apps Installation files, few in the programs folder and others are in that folder called (WINDOWSAPPS).

> These can be Appx or Xap, to recognize, read the next topic.

Windows 10 Mobile (Lumia) Group :- https://t.me/Windows10Phone

2. How to Identify if the extracted App is a Xap or an Appx/bundle

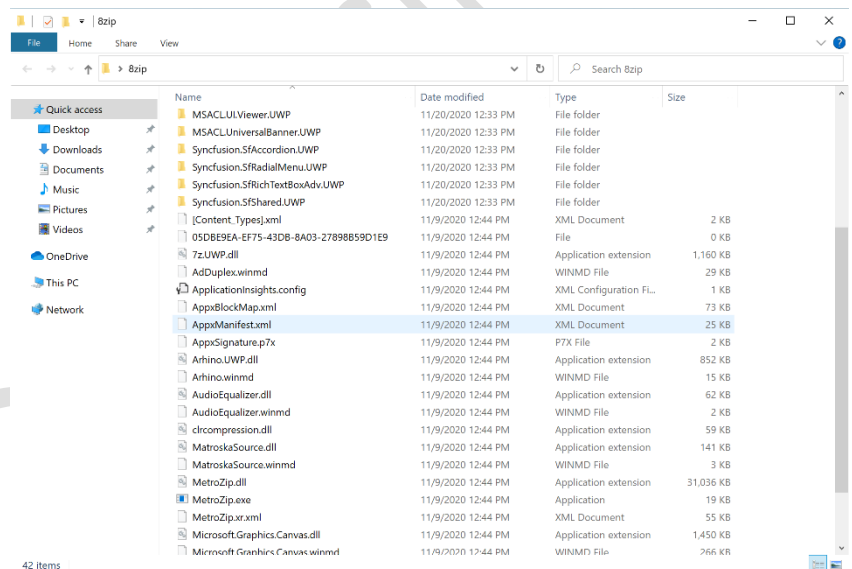*The main way to identify an App is to look for it's Manifest file

* Some will say you can identify by looking at it's interface but UWP devs can also use old interface too so it's not a good measure.

So the Main noticable difference is this ;
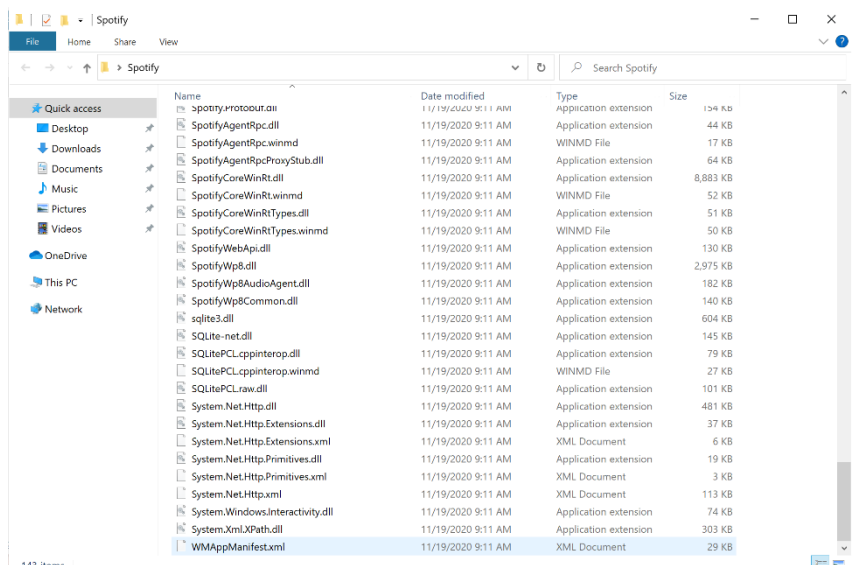
- ✓ Appx has AppxManifest.xml file as the apps manifest
- ✓ Xap has WMAppManifest.xml as it's manifest

So you can decide it just by looking for the above files as neither of them have both files in one package.

Appx Files :-

Xap Files :-

3. How to repack the Extracted app files

> Now after recognizing what type of app you just extracted, all you need to do now is to repack it

So according to the type of the app,

- [How to repack Appx](#)
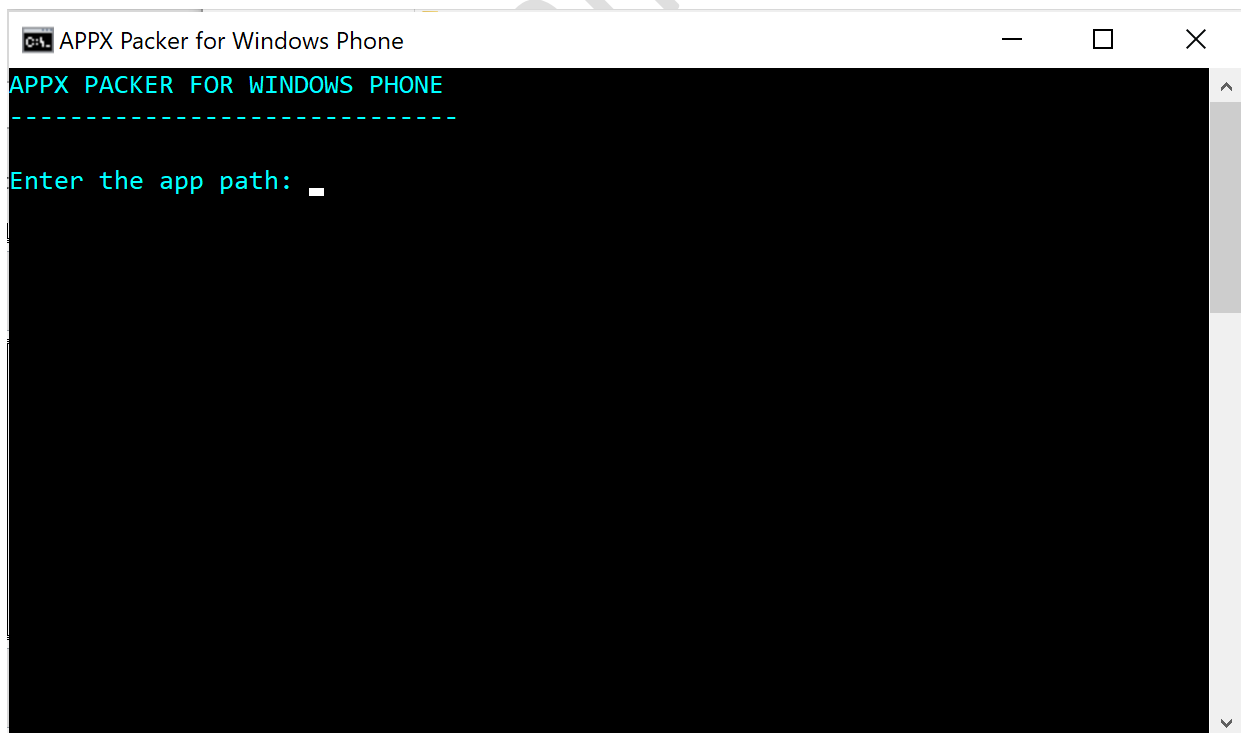
- [How to repack Xap](#)

How to repack Appx

* Normally appx packing is done via the Windows Phone SDK by going from tool to tool but Fadil Fadz created Appx packer with all tools of the SDK in it so it is very easy now.

Link :- https://mega.nz/#F!qRwCHBAb!Az-afhC-X-nUmYnYrTvsyw
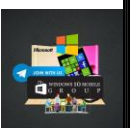
> Extract it to somewhere and run the batch file

This will be the Interface.

> Now it will ask for the app's data path, give it the path you extracted/copied from Mass Storage Mode, Next give it the path you need to have the packed Appx.

Windows 10 Mobile (Lumia) Group :- https://t.me/Windows10Phone

> Finnaly it will ask for the Publisher, for that,

Open the "AppxManifest.xml" file, Look for Publisher and Copy and paste it to the packer (With Quotation marks), see the example picture,

> Then the batch will start to pack and if succeed, it will turn to a white page and show that it's packed and moved to the output path you gave when asked.

Then Install the result Appx to your phone

Guide :- https://mega.nz/#F!iNhAkLQD!1BYw9KvE_dRM5Ysd0DqimQ
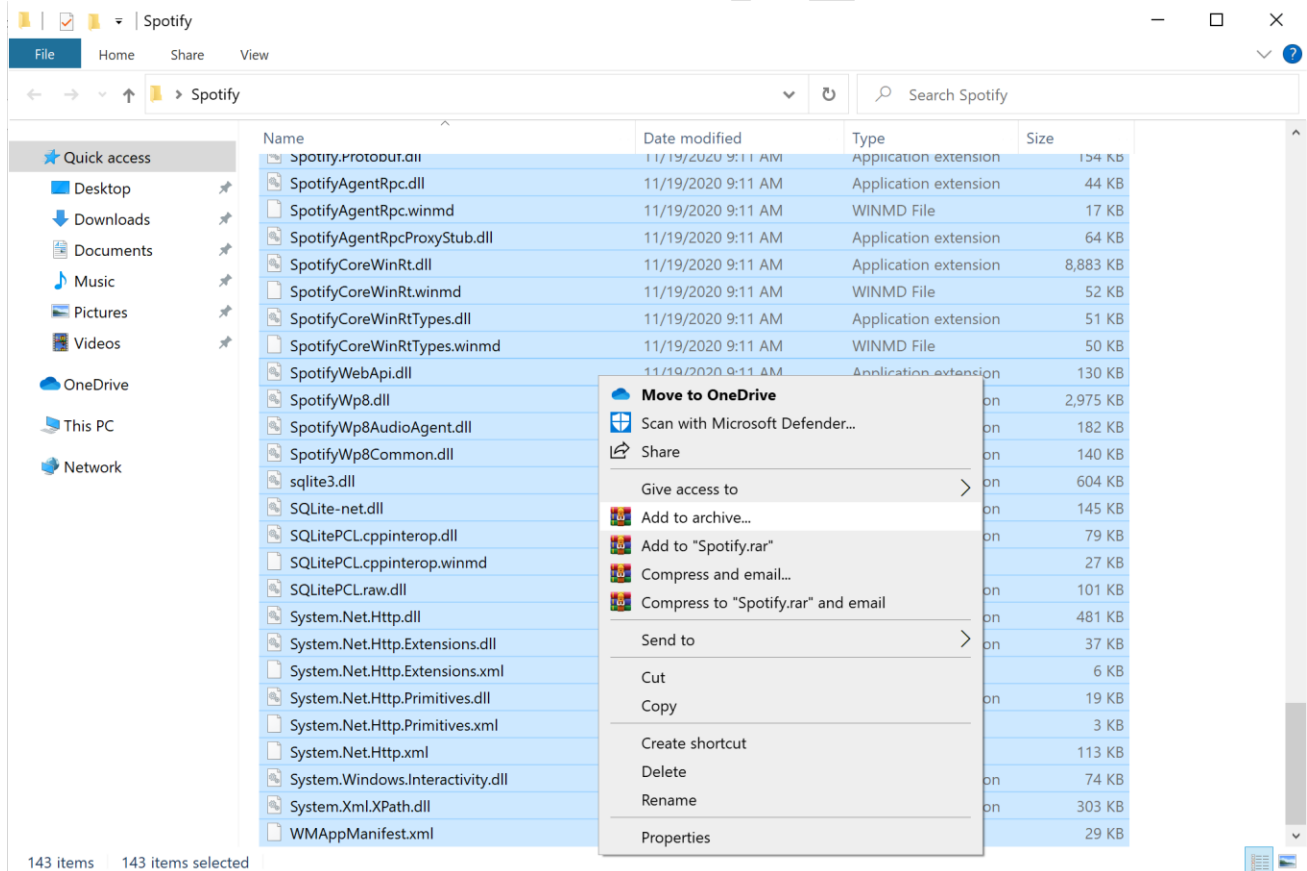
How to repack Xap

* To repack Xap you don't need any special software, only need a archive manager like Winrar for PC and 8Zip for W10M.

* If you used the Apps Data Manager tool to extract app and when you open the zip file, you may see a lot of folders, what you need is all the Files inside "Install" Folder
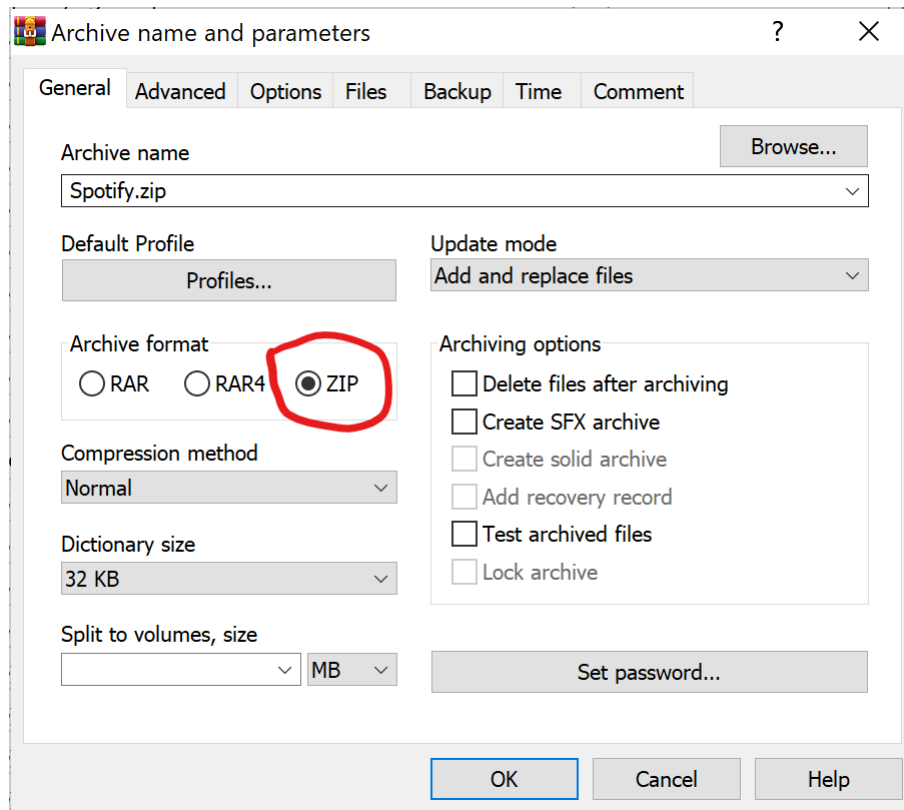
> Now first, find "WMAppPRHeader.xml" file and delete it

> After delete, select all files you just extracted or copied from Mass Storage Mode and make a new .Zip file, this is easy to do in PC and I will show some screenshots

(Here I'm repacking Spotify app with Winrar)

> You need to make .Zip format file

> Then when it's done, you will have the Zip file right in that folder

> Now all you need to do is click Rename the File and rename the Extension from .Zip for .Xap

> That's it, go deploy it to phone !

Xap Deploy Guide :- https://mega.nz/#F!OV5SQJjI!mZmMLgrR-EqeMKhJ7JoLZw

Notice

You can also do the repacking Xap in W10M via 8Zip app but it will take more time.

So copiyng them to PC and do it via PC is easy.

Additional Notes

- You don't need to use the exact same software I used, if you use others, you can go with them.

- When following Mass Storage method, keep in mind to not to play with files of the MainOS patition of the phone or any of the partitions, if you do, maybe it will lead to a permanent Brick.

Credits

- Thx Healthcliff for Windows Phone Internals

- Thx ezhassen for Apps Data Manager

- Thx Fadil Fadz for Appx Packer

That's All I planned to Cover here.

Thank you, Have a Good Day !

_____*Lasitha Samarasinghe*_____