How to deploy Win32 applications with Microsoft Intune

One of the most frequently asked questions from customers is whether it is possible to publish Win32 applications with Microsoft Intune. The answer is Yes. It is possible to deploy Windows 10 Store Apps, MSI files and even .EXE files. Although .EXE files cannot be published directly. You need to “wrap” the .EXE file (and other required source files if applicable) to an .INTUNEWIN file.

In this blog I will show you step-by-step how to do this. In the following example I will publish the FileZilla FTP client with Microsoft Intune.

**Prerequisites**

There are some requirements for publishing Win32 applications to a client. Be aware that you must meet the following criteria;

* Windows 10 – build 1607 or higher (Education, Pro and Enterprise)
* The Windows 10 client must be joined to Azure AD or Hybrid domain joined
* The Windows 10 must be under MDM management with Microsoft Intune
* The application (including all sources files) may not exceed 8 GB in size

**Custom installation script**

When adding a Win32 application within Microsoft Intune you need to fill in the install command. For example, this can be the .EXE with the “/S” parameter for the silent installation.

However, if customizations are needed during or after the installation (for example config files needs to be copied or registry settings needs to be applied) you can do this by using a PowerShell (or other) script. Make sure that in that case you need to put the script within the source folder before running the Intune Content Prep tool (described it step 2 of this blog).

**In this blog**

In this blog I will cover the following topics;

* Step 1 – Preparation
* Step 2 – Create the Intunewin file
* Step 3 – Publish the win32 application with Microsoft Intune
* Step 4 – Test the results

**Step 1 : Preparation**

Before we can create and publish a Win32 application (.EXE file) with Microsoft Intune we need to do some preparations as described in the following steps;

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On a Windows 10 device I have created 3 folders;

* C:\FileZilla : Place all the source files needed for the installation in here (including custom installation scrips if you use it). In this case I will prepare the FileZilla application.
* C:\IntuneApps : For the output file (.Intunewin file)
* C:\IntuneWinAppUtil : For the Intune Win32 Content prep tool

This is just the way I do this, you can create your own folder structure with your own names, just what best works for you.

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Secondly we need to download the Microsoft Win32 Content Prep tool, go to [this GitHub](https://github.com/Microsoft/Microsoft-Win32-Content-Prep-Tool) page to do so.

Extract the downloaded zip file and copy the IntuneWinAppUtil.exe file into the c:\IntuneWinAppUtil folder (or your own named folder).

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In a later step, when we publish the application within Microsoft Intune. We need the have the following information present;

* The installation command including all the installation parameters
* The uninstallation command including all the parameters
* Any rule detection to check if the application is installed successfully.
* The application logo in .jpg or .png format

**Step 2 : Create the Intunewin file**

As sad before, with Microsoft Intune you cannot publish .exe files directly. We first need to “wrap” all the source files that are needed for the installation into a .Intunewin file. To do this, follow the next steps;

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Open a CMD or a PowerShell prompt and navigate to the folder you copied the Intune Win32 Content prep tool in. In my case this is c:\IntuneWinAppUtil.

Run the **IntuneWinAppUtil.exe** command and fill in the following information;

**Source folder :**c:\FileZilla  
**Setup file :** The FileZilla setup file (even if using a installation script)  
**Output folder :** In my case this will be the c:\IntuneApps folder

Press **Enter**

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In a few second the **.intunewin** file is created.

**Step 3 : Publish the win32 application with Microsoft Intune**

Now it’s time to publish the Win32 application within Microsoft Intune. For the following steps login to the Microsoft Azure Portal.

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Navigate to: **Microsoft Intune > Client apps > Apps** and click the **+ Add** button

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Select **Windows app (Win32)**as App type

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Open the **App package file** blade and **browse**for the just created **.intunewin** file.

Press **OK**

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Open the **App information** page and fill in the application information like Name, Description, Publisher and Category.

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Scroll down and click **Logo**. Browse for the logo file and click **Ok**twice.

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Open the **Program** blade and fill in the **Install**and **Uninstall command**. Click **Ok**.

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Open the **Requirements** blade and apply fill in the requirements of the application. Click **Ok**.

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Open the **Detection rules**blade and select **Manually configure detection rules**.

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You can select **MSI, File,** or **Registry** to check if the application is successfully installed. In this case I will do it via a **File** check.

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Fill in the path and the correct .exe file name. In this case the correct path to **filezilla.exe**. Click **OK**

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Open the **Return codes** blade. Here you can customize the return codes for the logging. Click **OK** for now.

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Click **Add**

The application will now be uploaded to Microsoft Intune. Depending on the size of the application this can take a few minutes.

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After the application is uploaded click **Assignment** and publish the application on the group you want. In this case I have published this application as an Available application.

**Step 4 – Test the results**

On a Windows 10 devices that is joined with Azure AD and is managed with Microsoft Intune I will test the results.

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Open the **Company Portal**app.

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Search for the just published Win32 application. In my case the **FileZilla** application. Click **Install**.

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After a few seconds the application package will start downloading.

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And a few moments later the application is installed successfully.

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The application is visible in the users start menu.

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Also, the application can start successfully.