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 Microsoft Intune Autopilot Deployment & implementation

Time logs 11/18/2024 to 11/23/2024
 16.05 hours accumulated in this period

Date	Duration	Type	Description of completed work	Challenges and/or Next steps
11/18/24	3 hours	Troubleshooting Apps deployment	To troubleshoot applications deployed on devices, begin by confirming that all deployment requirements are fulfilled. Verify that the application installer matches the operating system and architecture (e.g., 32-bit or 64-bit). Ensure that any prerequisite software, such as frameworks or runtime libraries, is installed, and check that installation paths, permissions, and network connectivity comply with deployment guidelines. Analyze application logs and installation return codes to pinpoint specific problems, and double-check that requirement rules, like file paths or registry settings, are properly set up. If issues continue, try deploying the application on a clean device to identify potential conflicts with existing software.	Challenges: 1. Application Compatibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue: Certain older or custom applications might not be compatible with Intune or may require intricate configurations that Intune doesn't natively support. • Resolution: Conduct thorough testing in pilot environments to confirm application compatibility with modern deployment tools. 2. Packaging Requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue: Intune only supports specific formats like .intunewin, .msi, and .appx. Applications packaged as .exe often require repackaging, which can be a tedious process. • Resolution: Utilize tools like the Microsoft Win32 Content Prep Tool to convert .exe files into .intunewin packages for smooth deployment.
11/19/24	1.5 hour	Meeting	Conducted a meeting with the supervisor to seek guidance on troubleshooting Win32App types, specifically for EXE or MSI file formats.	
11/19/24	1.75 hours	7Zip App deployment & published	cd C:\Users\moise\OneDrive\Desktop\CISC4900\IntuneApps\ IntuneWinAppUtil.exe C:\Users\moise\OneDrive\Desktop\CISC4900\IntuneApps\7Zip\7z2408-x64.exe	
11/20/24	4 hours	Build new VMs	Four new virtual machines have been created and are in the process of being integrated into the environment, requiring numerous steps to complete their setup before they are fully operational.	
11/22/24	4.25hours	Research	Learn how to troubleshoot application installation and its dependencies using Microsoft Intune. This process involves two key steps: first, preparing the Win32 app content for upload through Command Prompt, and then adding, assigning, and monitoring the Win32 app within Microsoft Intune.	

11/23/24	1.55 hours	Documentations	Document reflections, create a time log for this period, upload screenshots to the GitHub repository, and update the board management system.	Next: Continue working on the project
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Reflection

What were your main goals in this period?

The main goals during this time period revolved around improving the deployment and management of applications and infrastructure using Microsoft Intune. One of the key objectives was to troubleshoot application deployment issues to ensure successful installation of applications on target devices. This involved verifying deployment prerequisites, resolving compatibility issues, and addressing configuration challenges. Another significant goal was to deploy and publish the 7Zip application using the Intune Win32 Content Prep Tool, ensuring it was correctly packaged and ready for distribution. Additionally, efforts were focused on building and integrating four new virtual machines into the environment. This required completing numerous configuration steps to ensure the machines were operational and aligned with organizational requirements. Researching and learning about troubleshooting application installations, including their dependencies, was another priority, particularly focusing on preparing Win32 app content using Command Prompt and managing applications through Microsoft Intune. Finally, maintaining proper documentation was critical, including logging all completed tasks, uploading screenshots to the GitHub repository, and updating the project boards to reflect progress.

What were the main challenges during this phase? Were you able to meet the challenge, if so, what helped? If not, what could help?

One of the major challenges during this phase was dealing with application compatibility issues. Some legacy or custom applications were not compatible with Microsoft Intune or required complex configurations that Intune does not natively support. This required thorough testing in pilot environments to identify and resolve compatibility issues early, ensuring smoother deployments for the production environment. Another challenge was managing the packaging requirements for applications. Since Intune supports specific formats like .intunewin, .msi, and .appx, the process of converting .exe installers into .intunewin format proved to be time-intensive. To address this, the Microsoft Win32 Content Prep Tool was utilized, streamlining the repackaging process and enabling a more efficient workflow. Virtually, setting up the four virtual machines posed its own difficulties due to the numerous steps required to integrate them into the environment properly. This task demanded careful attention to detail and adherence to a step-by-step checklist, which ensured the process was completed successfully and efficiently.

Most of the challenges faced during this period were successfully addressed through careful planning, proactive problem-solving, and the use of appropriate tools. Application compatibility challenges were mitigated by thorough testing in pilot environments, which helped identify potential issues and implement fixes before deploying to production. Packaging requirements were managed effectively using the Microsoft Win32 Content Prep Tool, which simplified the conversion of .exe files into the required .intunewin format. Setting up the virtual machines, though time-intensive, was made manageable by breaking the task into smaller, sequential steps and following a detailed checklist. Guidance from the supervisor during a meeting also proved invaluable in addressing specific troubleshooting issues related to Win32 apps, particularly for EXE and MSI file types. Overall, these strategies and resources contributed to meeting the challenges successfully.

Several improvements could further enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of these processes. Encouraging developers to create applications in Intune-supported formats or modernizing legacy applications would help reduce compatibility challenges and streamline deployments. The use of advanced automation tools for converting .exe files to .intunewin could significantly save time and effort, making packaging less tedious. Maintaining real-time documentation during each step of the deployment process could make future troubleshooting and deployments more efficient by providing immediate insights into what has been done and what issues were encountered. Lastly, gaining more advanced training in Microsoft Intune's features and deployment capabilities would enhance productivity and reduce the time spent troubleshooting issues, thereby optimizing the entire deployment workflow. These measures could help prevent similar challenges in the future and improve overall performance.