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Article • 05/26/2023 • 5 contributors

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As of Windows 11, you can install your app via PowerShell without needing to sign your package. This feature is intended to make it easier for you to quickly test your app. Don't use this feature to distribute your app widely.

Create an unsigned package

An unsigned package must include a special OID (organization ID) value in its Identity element in the manifest file, otherwise it won't be allowed to register. An unsigned package will never have the same identity as a package that's signed. That prevents unsigned packages from conflicting with, or spoofing the identity of, a signed package.

Here's an example.

```
XML
                                                                            1 Copy
<Identity Name="NumberGuesserManifest"</pre>
  Publisher="CN=AppModelSamples, OID.2.25.31172936891398431765440773059495699772
  Version="1.0.0.0" />
```

Install an unsigned package

(i) Important

In most scenarios, you'll need to run PowerShell as administrator. See the details below.

 To install an unsigned package, pass the -AllowUnsigned flag to the Add-AppxPackage command.

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- In most scenarios, the unsigned package will contain executable content; so you'll need to run PowerShell as administrator. That's because an unsigned package containing executable content must be installed for all users. Since that can affect more than just the current user, it requires administrator privilege.
- If the unsigned package contains only non-executable content (for example, when you need to load only images, assets and other content, or script files) then administrator privilege is *not* needed, and a non-admin can install the package.

Here's an example of the syntax.



When your app is ready to be distributed, you should ensure that the package is signed. Be sure to remove the special OID, and ensure that the publisher name is the same as the certificate subject name.

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