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IEExpress

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Not to be confused with [iXpress](#).

IEExpress, a component of [Windows 2000](#) and later versions of the operating system, is used to create [self-extracting packages](#) from a set of files. Such packages can be used to install software.

Overview [\[edit \]](#)

IEExpress (`IEXPRESS.EXE`) can be used for distributing self-contained installation packages ([INF](#)-based setup executables) to multiple local or remote Windows computers. It creates a self-extracting executable (.EXE) or a compressed Cabinet ([.CAB](#)) file using either the provided front end interface (IEExpress Wizard), or a custom Self Extraction Directive (SED) file.^[1] SED files can be modified with any plain text/ASCII editor, like [Notepad](#). All self-extracting files created by IEExpress use [CAB](#) compression algorithms, are compressed using the Cabinet Maker (`MAKECAB.EXE`) tool,^[2] and are extracted using the WExtract (`WEXTRACT.EXE`) tool.

`IEXPRESS.EXE` is located in the `SYSTEM32` folder of both 32 and 64-bit installations of Windows. The front end interface (IEExpress Wizard) can be started by manually navigating to the respective directory and opening the executable (IEExpress.exe), or by typing IEExpress into the Run window of the Start Menu. It can also be used from the command line (Windows Command Prompt or batch file) to create custom installation packages, eventually unattended. (automated operation):

```
IEXPRESS /N drive_letter:\directory_name\file_name.SED
```

IEExpress



Screenshot of IEExpress in [Windows 10](#)

Developer(s)	Microsoft
Operating system	Windows NT
Type	Self-contained installation packages maker

IEExpress Wizard interface guides the user through the process of creating a self-extracting package. It asks what the package should do: extract files and then run a program, or just extract files. It then allows the user to specify a title for the package, add a confirmation prompt, add a license agreement that the end-user must accept in order to allow extraction, select files to be archived, set display options for the progress window, and finally, specify a message to display upon completion.

If the option to create an archive and run a program is selected, then there will be an additional step, prompting the user to select the program that will be run upon extraction.

Security [[edit](#)]

The self-extracting packages created with IEExpress have (inherent) [vulnerabilities](#) which allow [arbitrary code execution](#) because of the way they handle their installation command and their command line processing.^{[3][4]} Additionally, because of the way Windows [User Account Control](#) handles installers, these vulnerabilities allow a [privilege escalation](#).^{[5][6]}

More specifically, the vulnerability comes in two versions: the most obvious one is that a `/c:` switch tells the package to run an arbitrary command in the extracted directory,^[6] the other is that the directory is predictable and writable by any ordinary user, so that the usual `msiexec.exe` command can be replaced by an attack payload.^[5] The latter has been fixed by Microsoft in MS14-049, but the former is only addressed by a policy to deprecate IEExpress.^[6] There is also a [DLL hijacking](#) exploit possible with IEExpress.^[7]

See also [[edit](#)]

- [List of installation software](#)


References [[edit](#)]

- ↑ MDGx: [INF Guide: SED Overview](#)↗
- ↑ MS TechNet: [IEExpress Technology and the IEExpress Wizard](#)↗
- ↑ MS Knowledge Base: [Command-line switches for IEExpress software update packages](#)↗
- ↑ MS TechNet: [IEExpress command-line options](#)↗
- ↑ ^{***a***} ^{***b***} FullDisclosure: [Defense in depth -- the Microsoft way \(part 11\): privilege escalation for dummies](#)↗
- ↑ ^{***a***} ^{***b***} ^{***c***} FullDisclosure: [Defense in depth -- the Microsoft way \(part 33\): yet another \(trivial\) UAC bypass resp. privilege escalation](#)↗
- ↑ "[\[CVE-2016-0014\] Executable installers are vulnerable](#)^WEVIL (case 1): Microsoft's IEExpress resp. WExtract, SFXCab, BoxStub, ..." ↗ *seclists.org*.

External links [edit]

- MSDN: [Using IEExpress Wizard to Create a DPInst Installation Package](#) ↗
- MS TechNet: [IEExpress Technology and the IEExpress Wizard](#) ↗
- MDGx: [Internet Explorer Administration Kit \(IEAK\): Guides, Resources & Downloads](#) ↗
- MDGx: [Complete INF + IEAK Guide](#) ↗
- MDGx: [Setup Information \(INF\) & Self Extraction Directive \(SED\) files: Guides, Resources & Downloads](#) ↗

V · T · E	Microsoft Windows components [hide]
	APIs · Architecture (9x · NT) · Booting process · Games
Management tools	App Installer · Command Prompt · Control Panel · Device Manager · Disk Cleanup · Drive Optimizer · Driver Verifier · DirectX Diagnostic Tool · Event Viewer · IEExpress · Management Console · Netsh · Performance Monitor · Recovery Console · Resource Monitor · Settings · Sysprep · System Configuration · System File Checker · System Information · System Policy Editor · System Restore · Task Manager · Windows Error Reporting · Windows Ink · Windows Installer · PowerShell · Windows Update (Windows Insider) · WinRE · WMI
Apps	3D Viewer · Calculator · Calendar · Camera · Character Map · Clipchamp · Clock · Cortana · Edge · Fax and Scan · Feedback Hub · Get Help · Magnifier · Mail · Maps · Messaging · Media Player (2022) · Movies & TV · Mobility Center · Money · Narrator · Notepad · OneDrive · OneNote · Paint · People · Phone Link · Photos · Quick Assist · Remote Desktop Connection · Snipping Tool · Speech Recognition · Skype · Sports · Start · Sticky Notes · Store · Tips · Voice Recorder · Weather · Xbox
Shell	Action Center · Aero · AutoPlay · AutoRun · ClearType · Explorer · Search (Indexing Service · IFilter · Saved search · Namespace · Special folder) · Start menu · Taskbar · Task View · Windows Spotlight · Windows XP visual styles
Services	Service Control Manager · BITS · CLFS · Multimedia Class Scheduler · Shadow Copy · Task Scheduler · Error Reporting · Wireless Zero Configuration
File systems	CDFS · DFS · exFAT · IFS · FAT · NTFS (Hard link · links · Mount Point · Reparse point · TxF · EFS) · ReFS · UDF
Server	Active Directory · Domains · DNS · Group Policy · Roaming user profiles · Folder redirection · Distributed Transaction Coordinator · MSMQ · Windows Media Services · Active DRM Services · IIS · WSUS · SharePoint · Network Access Protection · PWS · DFS Replication · Print Services for UNIX · Remote Desktop Services · Remote Differential Compression · Remote Installation Services · Windows Deployment Services · System Resource Manager · Hyper-V · Server Core
Architecture	Boot Manager · Console · CSRSS · Desktop Window Manager · Portable Executable (EXE · DLL) · Enhanced Write Filter · Graphics Device Interface · Hardware Abstraction Layer · I/O request packet · Imaging Format · Kernel Transaction Manager · Library files ·

	Logical Disk Manager · LSASS · MinWin · NTLDR · Ntoskrnl.exe · Object Manager · Open XML Paper Specification · Registry · Resource Protection · Security Account Manager · Server Message Block · Shadow Copy · SMSS · System Idle Process · USER · WHEA · Winlogon · WinUSB
Security	Security and Maintenance · AppLocker · BitLocker · Credential Guard · Data Execution Prevention · Defender · Family features · Kernel Patch Protection · Mandatory Integrity Control · Protected Media Path · User Account Control · User Interface Privilege Isolation · Windows Firewall
Compatibility	COMMAND.COM · Windows Subsystem for Linux · WoW64
API	Active Scripting (WSH · VBScript · JScript) · COM (ActiveX · ActiveX Document · COM Structured storage · DCOM · OLE · OLE Automation · Transaction Server) · DirectX · Native .NET · Universal Windows Platform · WinAPI · Windows Mixed Reality · Windows Runtime · WinUSB
Games	<i>Solitaire Collection</i> · <i>Surf</i>
Discontinued	<div>Games</div> 3D Pinball · Chess Titans · FreeCell · Hearts · InkBall · Hold 'Em · Purble Place · Spider Solitaire · Solitaire · Tinker
	<div>Apps</div> ActiveMovie · Anytime Upgrade · Address Book · Backup and Restore · Cardfile · CardSpace · CD Player · Chat · Contacts · Desktop Gadgets · Diagnostics · DriveSpace · DVD Maker · Easy Transfer · Fax · Food & Drink · Groove Music · Help and Support Center · Health & Fitness · HyperTerminal · Imaging · Internet Explorer · Journal · Make Compatible · Media Center · Meeting Space · Messaging · Messenger · Mobile Device Center · Movie Maker · MSN Dial-up · NetMeeting · NTBackup · Outlook Express · Pay · Phone Companion · Photo Gallery · Photo Viewer · Paint 3D · Program Manager · Steps Recorder · Syskey · Travel · WinHelp · WordPad · Write
	<div>Others</div> Desktop Cleanup Wizard · Games for Windows · ScanDisk · File Protection · Media Control Interface · MS-DOS 7 · Next-Generation Secure Computing Base · POSIX subsystem · HPFS · Interix · Video for Windows · Virtual DOS machine · Windows on Windows · Windows SideShow · Windows Services for UNIX · Windows System Assessment Tool · Windows To Go · WinFS
Spun off to Microsoft Store	DVD Player · File Manager · Hover! · Mahjong · Minesweeper
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Category: [Installation software](#)

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