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Code pages

When it was first developed and introduced, Windows Installer was available for Windows 95 and Windows 98. While the 90s were a great decade, those 16-bit versions of Windows came with some significant limitations. One of them is lack of support for Unicode. Windows Installer inherited that limitation and uses *code pages* to support characters outside of the traditional 7-bit ASCII we know and love.

That said, Windows Installer has limited support for code page 65001 as UTF-8. WiX uses code page 65001 by default but you can override the default using the `Codepage` attribute in the `Package`, `SummaryInformation`, `Module`, `Patch`, and `PatchCreation` elements. `Codepage` attribute values can be integers like 1252 for Windows ANSI or by Web name like `Windows-1252`.


You can specify coded page 0 as a "neutral" code page. The only characters supported are the aforementioned known and loved 7-bit ASCII characters (0 to 127). For more information, see [Creating a Database with a Neutral Code Page](#).

Centralizing code pages via localization files

WiX localization (.wxl) files contain localized strings and can also specify code pages for both packages and their summary information stream using the `Codepage` and `SummaryInformationCodepage` attributes, respectively:

```
<WixLocalization xmlns="http://wixtoolset.org/schemas/v4/wxl"
  Culture="en-US"
  Codepage="UTF-8"
  SummaryInformationCodepage="0">
```

...

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