

Logon scripts, especially when used in conjunction with Active Setup, can be a powerful way to populate user profile data within MSI application packages. Here's how you can use them effectively:

## 1. Leverage Active Setup in MSI Packages:

- **Purpose:** Active Setup allows you to run specific actions (like copying files, updating registry keys, or executing scripts) during the user's logon process. [\[1, 1, 2\]](#)
- **How it works:** You can include Active Setup within your MSI package to trigger these actions whenever a user logs in, ensuring user-specific data is available. [\[1, 1\]](#)
- **Example:** You can use Active Setup to copy configuration files from a per-machine location into the user's AppData folder during logon. [\[3, 3\]](#)

## 2. Create and Assign Logon Scripts: [\[3, 3, 4, 5, 6\]](#)

- **Script Content:** These scripts can be batch files, PowerShell scripts, or even other scripting languages like VBScript. [\[3, 3, 4, 4, 5, 5\]](#)
- **Example:** A script might copy user-specific files from a shared network location to the user's profile directory during logon. [\[3, 3, 5, 5\]](#)
- **Assignment:** Logon scripts can be assigned to individual user accounts (local or domain) or to groups of users via Group Policy. [\[5, 5, 7, 7, 8, 8\]](#)

## 3. Consider Deployment Strategies:

- **Group Policy:** You can deploy logon scripts using Group Policy, assigning them to specific organizational units (OU) or user accounts. [\[8, 8, 9, 10\]](#)
- **Software Distribution:** You can use Group Policy Software Distribution to deploy MSI packages, including those that utilize logon scripts or Active Setup. [\[8, 8\]](#)
- **Scripting Languages:** Choose a scripting language suitable for your needs. Batch files are simpler, while PowerShell offers more advanced capabilities. [\[4, 4, 5, 5, 11\]](#)

## 4. Example Scenario: Copying User Settings Files:

- **Scenario:** An application needs to store user-specific settings files in the user's AppData folder, but these files need to be available immediately upon logon. [\[1, 1, 12\]](#)
- **Solution:**
  1. **MSI Package:** Include an Active Setup entry that triggers a logon script during user logon. [\[1, 1\]](#)
  2. **Logon Script:** Create a script (e.g., a batch file) that copies the application's settings files from a shared network location (e.g., `\\server\netlogon\MyApplication`) to the user's AppData folder (`%AppData%\MyApplication`). [\[3, 3, 5, 5\]](#)
  3. **Deployment:** Deploy the MSI package and the associated logon script using Group Policy or Software Distribution. [\[8, 8\]](#)

## 5. Best Practices:

- **Error Handling:** Incorporate error handling into your logon scripts to gracefully handle potential issues (e.g., network connectivity problems). [3, 3, 13]
- **Security:** Ensure scripts are secure, especially when dealing with sensitive data or file paths.
- **Testing:** Thoroughly test your scripts and deployment process to ensure they work as expected in your environment. [3, 3]
- **Documentation:** Document your scripts, deployment procedures, and any related configurations for easy maintenance and troubleshooting. [3, 3]

[1] <https://pacesuite.com/blog/user-data-deployment-msi>

[2] <https://pacesuite.com/blog/user-data-deployment-msi>

[3] <https://www.advancedinstaller.com/application-packaging-training/msi-advanced/ebook/best-practices-for-user-data.html>

[4] [https://www.reddit.com/r/PowerShell/comments/14a5mck/powershell\\_script\\_to\\_install\\_msi\\_in\\_user\\_profile/](https://www.reddit.com/r/PowerShell/comments/14a5mck/powershell_script_to_install_msi_in_user_profile/)

[5] <https://learn.microsoft.com/he-il/troubleshoot/windows-server/user-profiles-and-logon/assign-logon-script-profile-local-user>

[6] <https://support.sophos.com/support/s/article/KBA-000001482>

[7] <https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/troubleshoot/windows-server/user-profiles-and-logon/assign-logon-script-profile-local-user>

[8] <https://serverfault.com/questions/605945/installing-msi-before-user-logon>

[9] [https://wiki.samba.org/index.php/Roaming\\_Windows\\_User\\_Profiles](https://wiki.samba.org/index.php/Roaming_Windows_User_Profiles)

[10] <https://www.manageengine.com/products/self-service-password/help/admin-guide/Configuration/Admin-Tools/Enrollment-Reminder-Steps.html>

[11] <https://anakage.com/blog/how-to-automate-software-installation-with-a-script-a-step-by-step-guide/>

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[13] <https://m365corner.com/m365-powershell/using-graph-powershell-to-get-microsoft-365-last-logon-time.html>

[14] <https://www.semperis.com/blog/gpo-logon-script-security/>