The Package Support Framework (PSF) is **a free, open-source kit developed by Microsoft that helps you address compatibility issues when running legacy desktop applications within an MSIX container**. It's essentially a way to apply runtime fixups without requiring source code changes to the application itself. [1, 2]

Here's a more detailed explanation:

- **Purpose:** The PSF allows you to overcome limitations of the MSIX container when running older, often less-modern applications. These applications might have issues with file access, registry operations, or other aspects of the runtime environment. [1, 1, 2, 2]
- **How it works:** PSF uses a technique called Detours, which intercepts and modifies API calls made by the application, effectively "redirecting" them to the appropriate location or modifying their behavior to fit the MSIX environment. [2, 2, 3, 3]
- **Components:** The PSF kit includes an executable (PsfLauncher), a runtime manager DLL (PSFRuntime), and a set of runtime fixes. [1, 1]
- **Configuration:** PSF uses JSON configuration files to specify the fixups that should be applied to the application. [1, 1, 4, 4]
- **Benefits:** It simplifies the transition of legacy applications to MSIX, reducing the need for complete application rewrites or extensive source code modifications. [1, 1, 2, 2]
- **Open Source:** The PSF is freely available as open source, encouraging community contributions and improvements. [1, 1, 5, 5]
- **Tools:** There are tools like PsfTooling that simplify the process of incorporating the PSF into your MSIX packaging workflows. [6, 6, 7, 7]