1. **Install WiX Toolset**: Make sure you have the WiX Toolset installed on your system. You can download it from the WiX Toolset website.

2. **Prepare Your Files**: Ensure you have your .NET executable and the Newtonsoft.JSON.dll file ready. For this example, let's assume:

* Your .NET executable is named SampleApp.exe.
* The Newtonsoft.JSON DLL is named Newtonsoft.Json.dll.

3. **Create WiX Project**: Create a new WiX project in your preferred IDE (like Visual Studio).

4 **Create WiX Installer XML**:

* Create a new XML file for your WiX installer. Name it Product.wxs and include the following content:

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>

<Wix xmlns="http://schemas.microsoft.com/wix/2006/wi">

<Product Id="\*" Name="SampleApp" Language="1033" Version="1.0.0.0" Manufacturer="YourCompany" UpgradeCode="PUT-GUID-HERE">

<Package InstallerVersion="500" Compressed="yes" InstallScope="perMachine" />

<Media Id="1" Cabinet="SampleApp.cab" EmbedCab="yes" />

<Directory Id="TARGETDIR" Name="SourceDir">

<Directory Id="ProgramFilesFolder">

<Directory Id="INSTALLFOLDER" Name="SampleApp" />

</Directory>

</Directory>

<ComponentGroup Id="ProductComponents" Directory="INSTALLFOLDER">

<Component Id="SampleApp.exe" Guid="PUT-GUID-HERE">

<File Source="path\to\SampleApp.exe" KeyPath="yes" />

</Component>

<Component Id="Newtonsoft.Json.dll" Guid="PUT-GUID-HERE">

<File Source="path\to\Newtonsoft.Json.dll" KeyPath="yes" />

</Component>

</ComponentGroup>

<Feature Id="ProductFeature" Title="SampleApp" Level="1">

<ComponentGroupRef Id="ProductComponents" />

</Feature>

</Product>

</Wix>

4. Replace path\to\SampleApp.exe and path\to\Newtonsoft.Json.dll with the actual paths to your files. Also, generate new GUIDs for the UpgradeCode and the Guid attributes in the Component elements (you can use tools like guidgenerator.com).

5. **Build the WiX Installer**:

* Open a command prompt or terminal in the directory containing your Product.wxs file.
* Run the following commands to compile the WiX installer:

candle Product.wxs

light -o SampleApp.msi Product.wixobj

6. T**est the Installer**:

* Run the generated SampleApp.msi on your target VMs (Windows 2016 or 2019).
* Install the application and verify that both SampleApp.exe and Newtonsoft.Json.dll are placed in the installation directory.
* Run SampleApp.exe to test if it loads Newtonsoft.Json.dll correctly.