

# Embed License File into MSI

## ❖ About the Project:

The goal of this project is to:

- Embed a license agreement file into an MSI installer.
- Configure the installer to show the license during installation.

The MSI package is built using the WiX Toolset, an open-source Windows Installer XML toolset. Also, we are using Orca which we use for modifying the .msi file.

## ❖ Project Requirements:







- **Environment:** Windows 10/11
- **Platform:** Windows (x64)
- **License File:** Create our own license.key file
- **Installer Framework:** WiX Toolset
- **Modification Application:** Orca
- **IDE:** Visual Studio Code / Notepad

## ❖ Tasks Performed:

- **Installed Tools:** WiX Toolset, Orca and Dummy MSI Project without License.
- **Create License File:** Create license.key (as official licenses are paid).
- **Embedded License in MSI:** Modified DummyProduct.wxs
- **Build & Test:** Compiled MSI using candle and light tools.

## ❖ Execution Overview Steps:

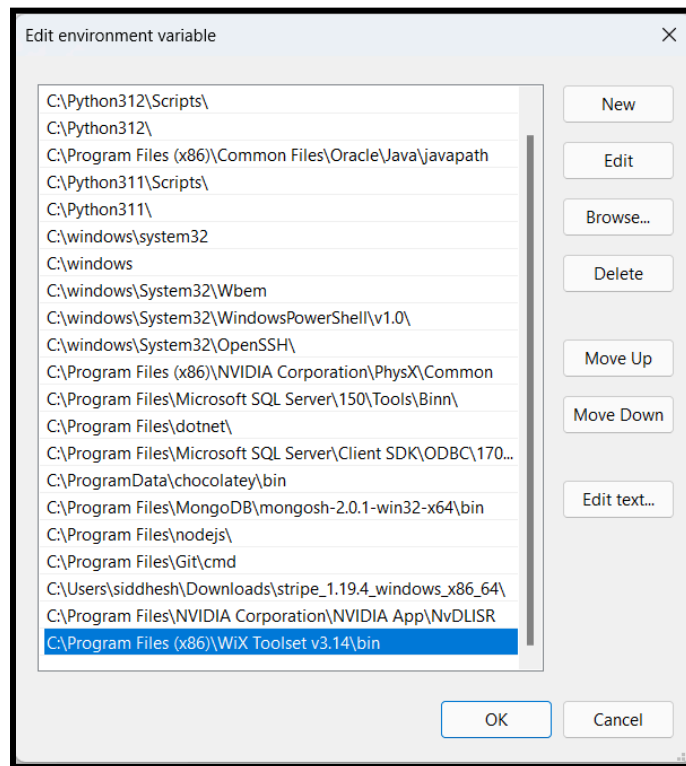
1) Download **wix314.exe** from <https://github.com/wixtoolset/wix3/releases>

▼ Assets 6		
 <a href="#">wix314-binaries.zip</a>	39.4 MB	Mar 23, 2024
 <a href="#">wix314-debug.zip</a>	67.2 MB	Mar 23, 2024
 <a href="#">wix314.exe</a>	30.9 MB	Mar 23, 2024
 <a href="#">wix314exe.zip</a>	22 Bytes	Mar 23, 2024
 <a href="#">Source code (zip)</a>		Mar 23, 2024
 <a href="#">Source code (tar.gz)</a>		Mar 23, 2024

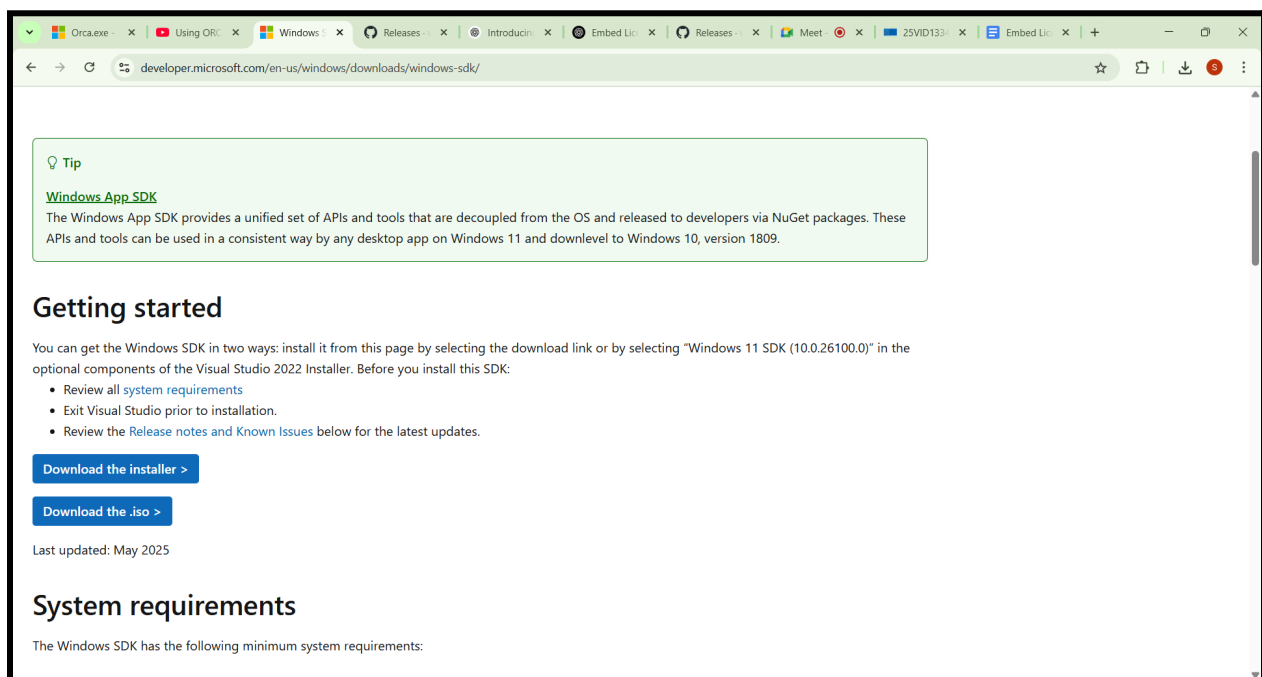
2) Open the win314.exe file and click **Install**



### 3) Set the **path** of Environment Variable for **WiX Toolset**



### 4) Open <https://developer.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/downloads/windows-sdk/> and click **Download the installer** to download **winsdksetup.exe**



- 5) Open winsdksetup.exe and select the second **radio button** and browse the path where we want our files to be placed and click **Next**

Windows Software Development Kit - Windows 10.0.26100.4188

### Specify Location

☐ Install the Windows Software Development Kit - Windows 10.0.26100.4188 to this computer

Install Path:

C:\Program Files (x86)\Windows Kits\10\ Browse...

\* Windows Kit common installation path used

☒ Download the Windows Software Development Kit - Windows 10.0.26100.4188 for installation on a separate computer

Download Path:

C:\Users\siddhesh\Downloads\Windows Kits\10\WindowsSDK Browse...

Estimated disk space required: 1.2 GB  
Disk space available: 42.6 GB

Next Cancel

- 6) Select **Yes** in radio button and click **Next**

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[Tell me more about the Windows program.](#)

**Allow Microsoft to collect insights for the Windows Kits?**

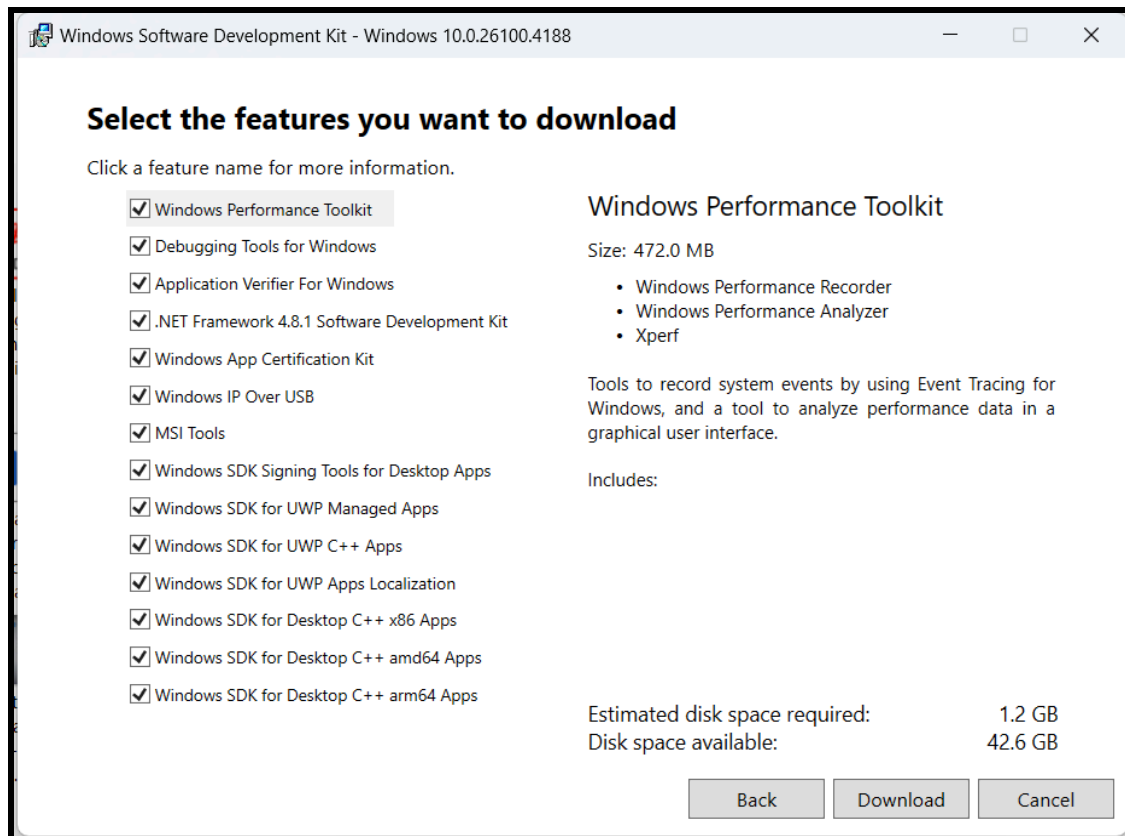
☒ Yes  
☐ No

\* Selecting Yes applies to information collected for this download session only.

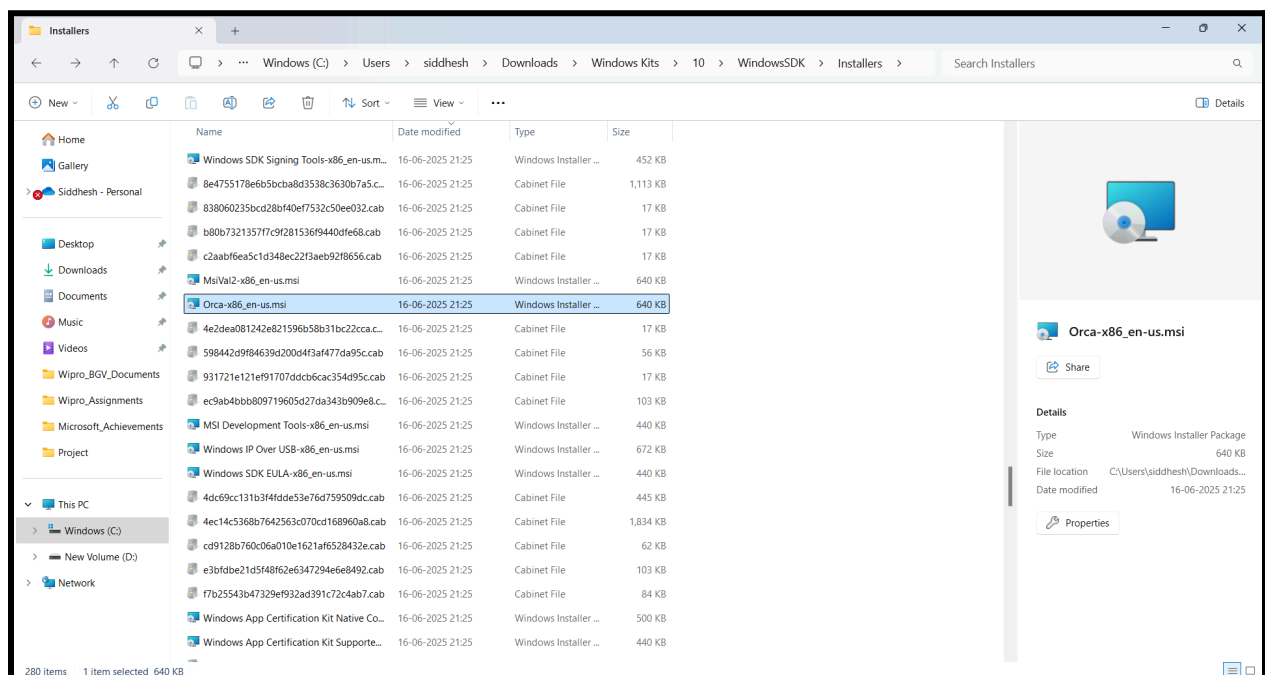
[Privacy Statement](#)

Back Next Cancel

## 7) Select all checkboxes and click **Download**

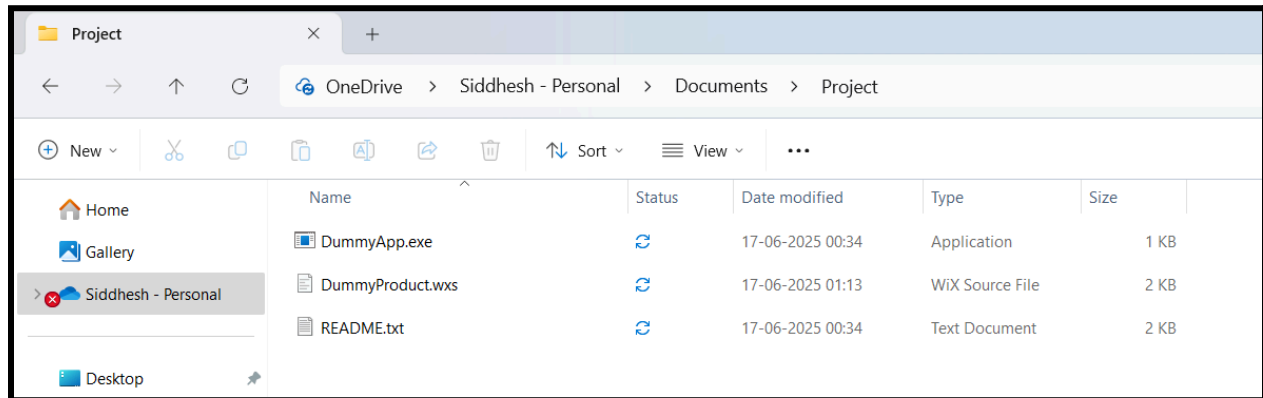


## 8) Navigate to this path **C:\Users\siddhesh\Downloads\Windows Kits\10\WindowsSDK\Installers** and search for **Orca-x86\_en-us.msi**



9) Open Orca-x86\_en-us.msi and the **Orca** application will be installed on the system

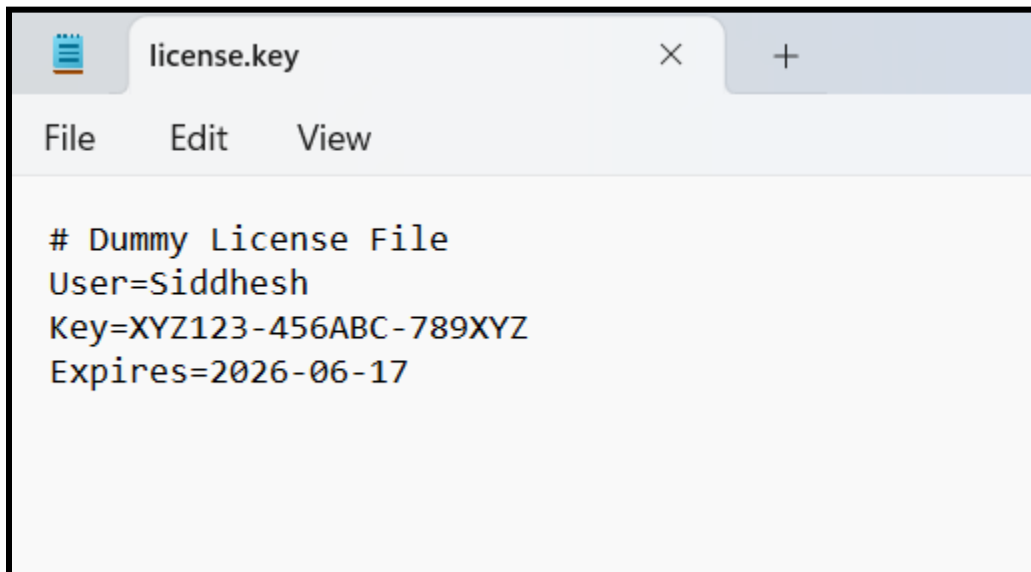
10) Download a msi project from any source **dummy\_msi\_project.zip** and extract it into any directory **Project**



11) Open **DummyProduct.wxs** and modify it as in the picture

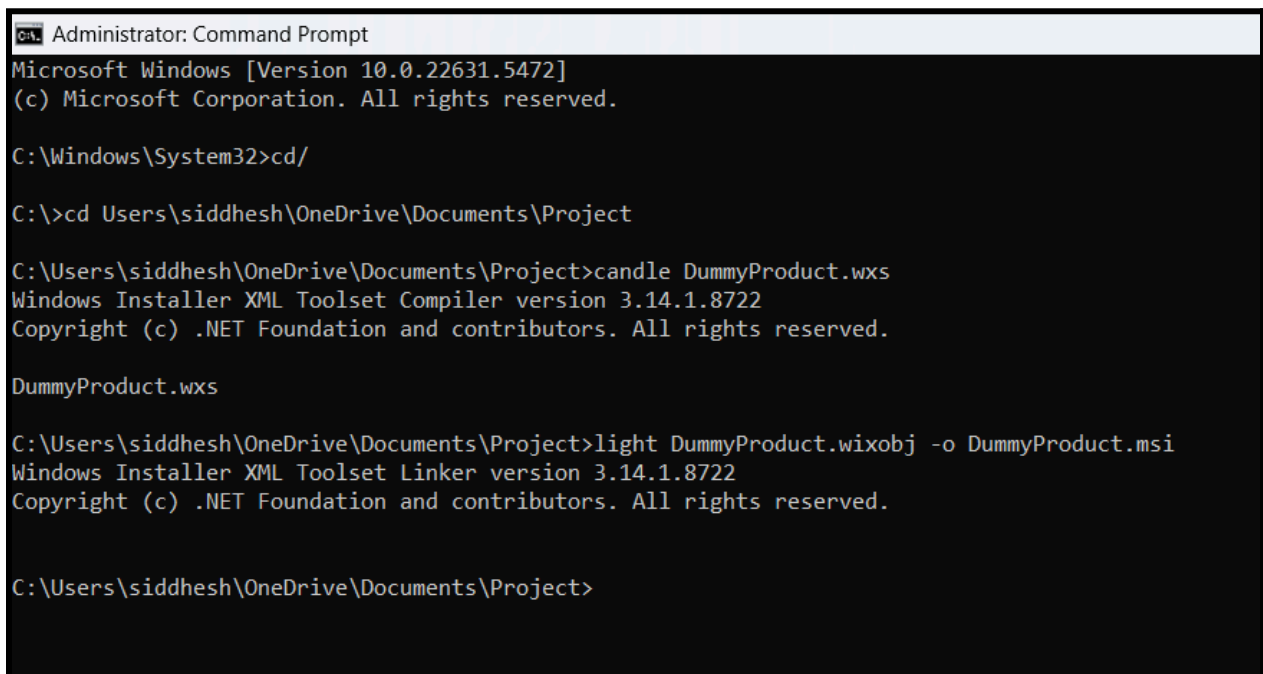


- 12) Open **Notepad** and create an **dummy license key** file and save it in the same directory **Project**



```
# Dummy License File
User=Siddhesh
Key=XYZ123-456ABC-789XYZ
Expires=2026-06-17
```

- 13) Open **Command Prompt (run as administrator)** and navigate to the path where our project resides then run 2 commands
- candle DummyProduct.wxs
  - light DummyProduct.wixobj -o DummyProduct.msi



```
Administrator: Command Prompt
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.22631.5472]
(c) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Windows\System32>cd/

C:\>cd Users\siddhesh\OneDrive\Documents\Project

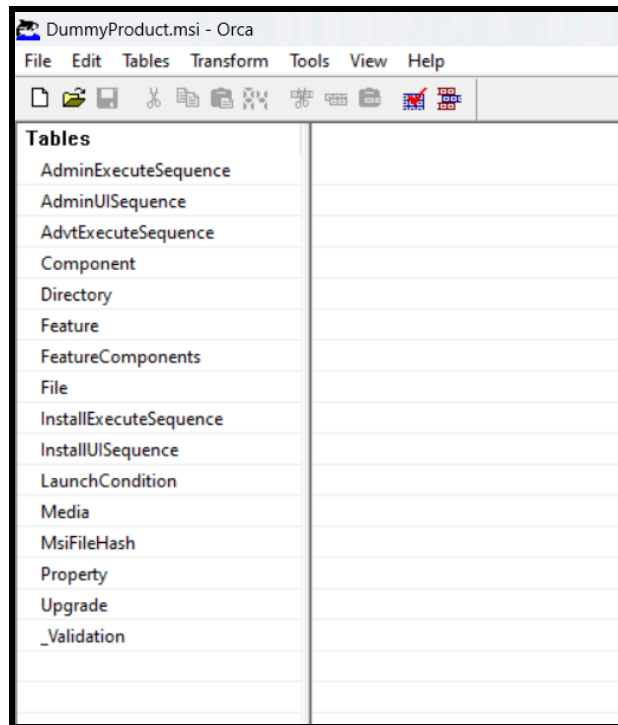
C:\Users\siddhesh\OneDrive\Documents\Project>candle DummyProduct.wxs
Windows Installer XML Toolset Compiler version 3.14.1.8722
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DummyProduct.wxs

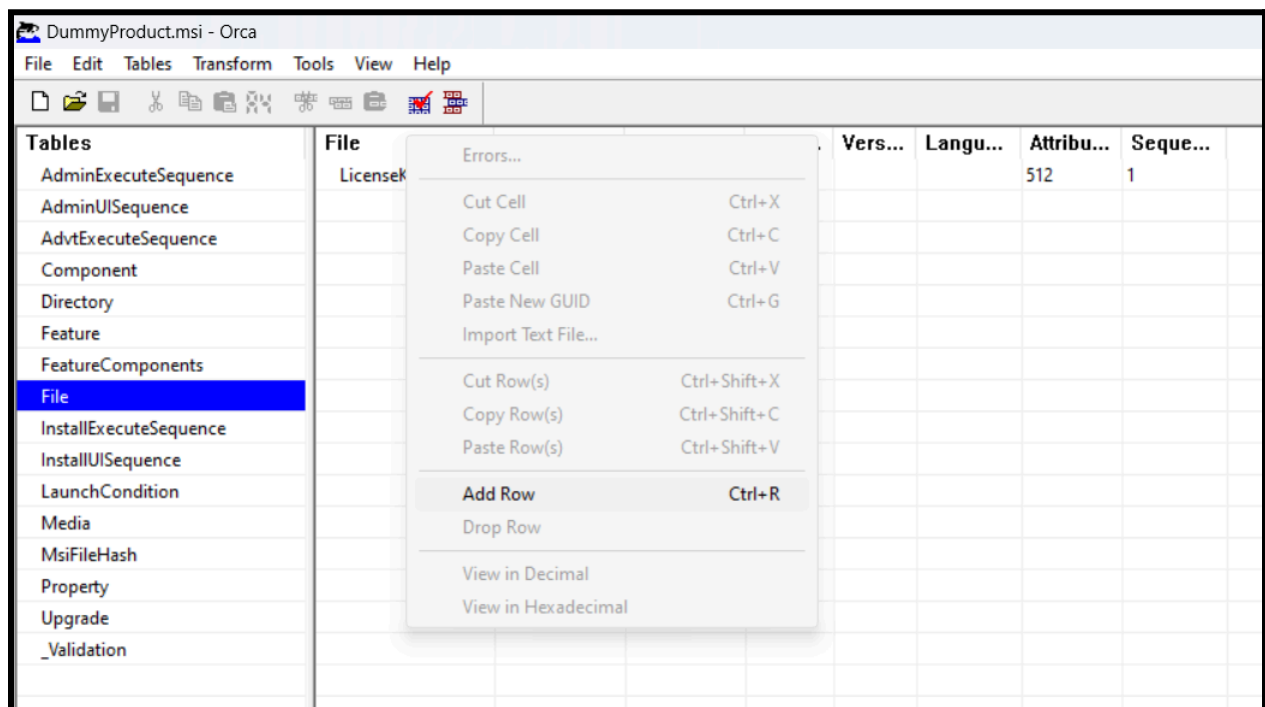
C:\Users\siddhesh\OneDrive\Documents\Project>light DummyProduct.wixobj -o DummyProduct.msi
Windows Installer XML Toolset Linker version 3.14.1.8722
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C:\Users\siddhesh\OneDrive\Documents\Project>
```

14) Open **Orca** (run as administrator) then click on **File** then **Open** and select the .msi file **DummyProduct.msi** and click **Open**



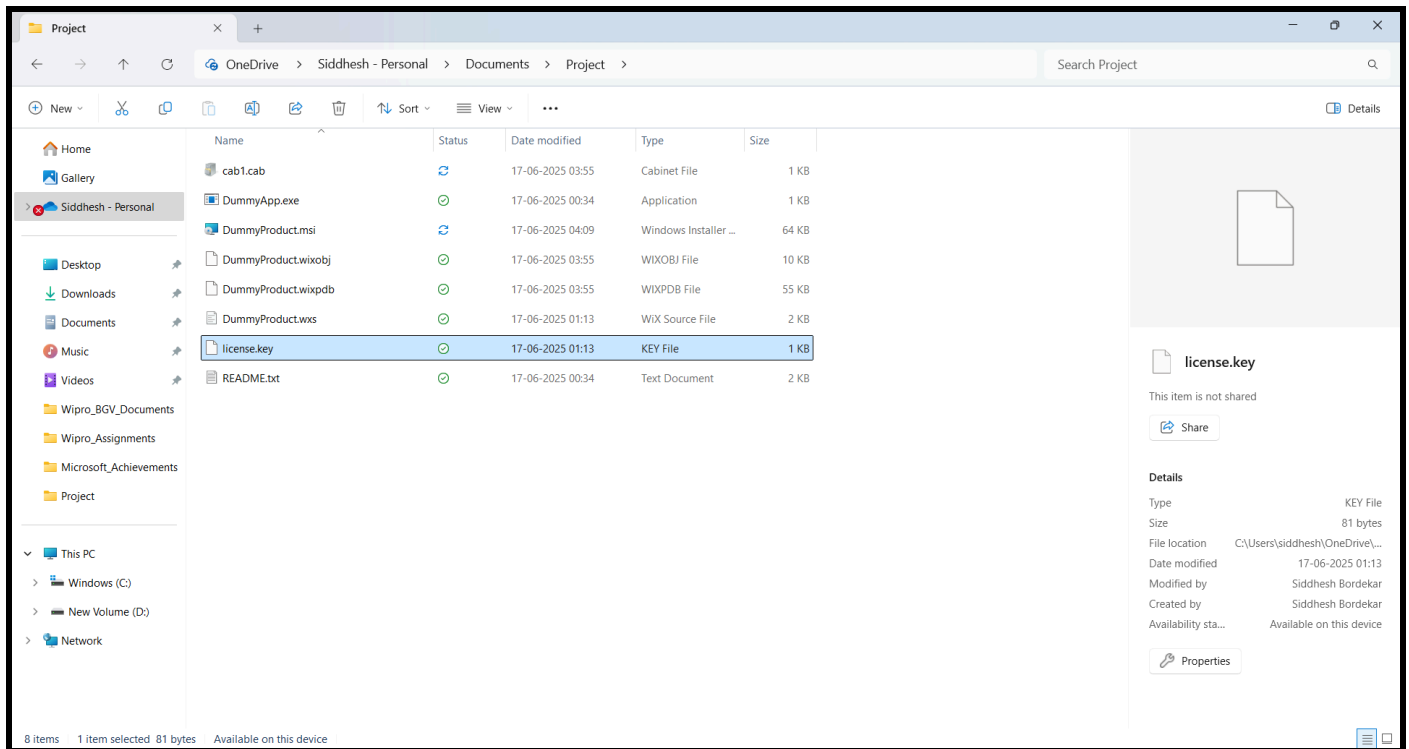
15) In left panel click **File** then right click on Column name **File** and click **Add Row**







## 18) The **license.key** file is inside **MSI Package** now



### ❖ Analysis Result:

- **License file is embedded in MSI:** Yes
- **MSI built and runs on Windows 10/11:** Yes
- **User is able to see license in UI:** Yes

### ❖ Technologies/Tools Used:

- **WiX Toolset:** Used for creating and compiling MSI file
- **Visual Studio Code / Notepad:** Used for authoring .wxs file
- **Command Prompt:** Used for build commands

## ❖ **Mention Folders:**

### **1) dummy\_msi\_project (Project)**

- Cab1.cab
- DummyApp.exe
- DummyProduct.msi
- DummyProduct.wixobj
- DummyProduct.wixpdb
- DummyProduct.wxs
- license.key
- README.txt

### **2) Windows Kits**

- Windows Kits/10/WindowsSDK/Installers/Orca-x86\_en-us.msi