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.
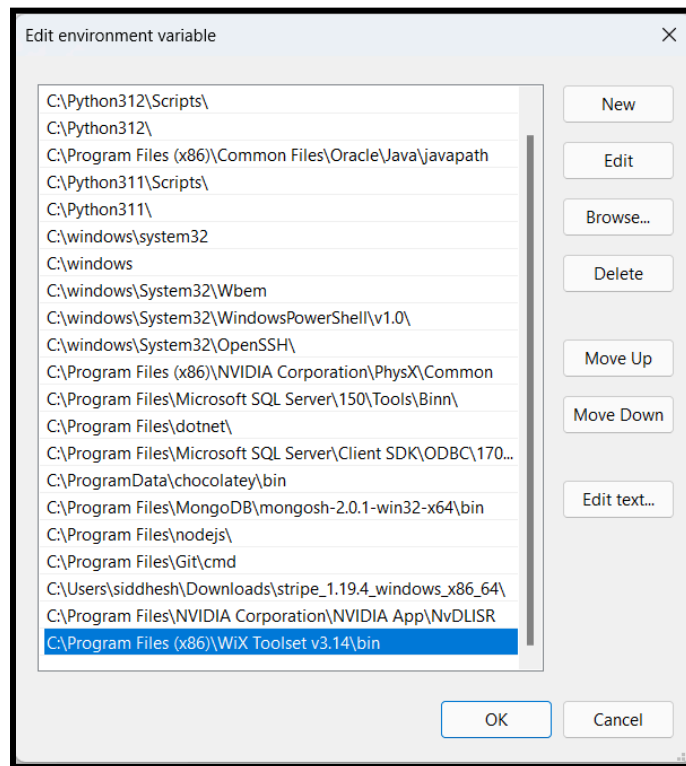
❖ Execution Overview Steps:

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

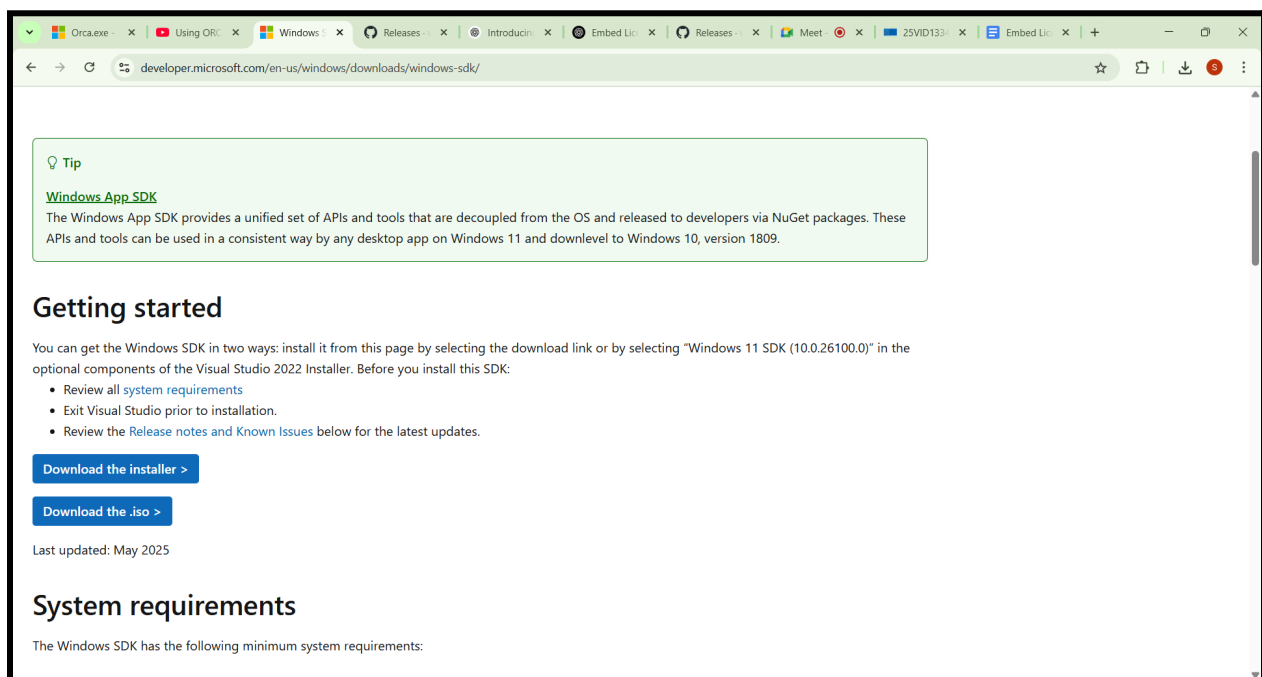**2)** Open the win314.exe file and click **Install**

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**

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

7) Select all checkboxes and click **Download**
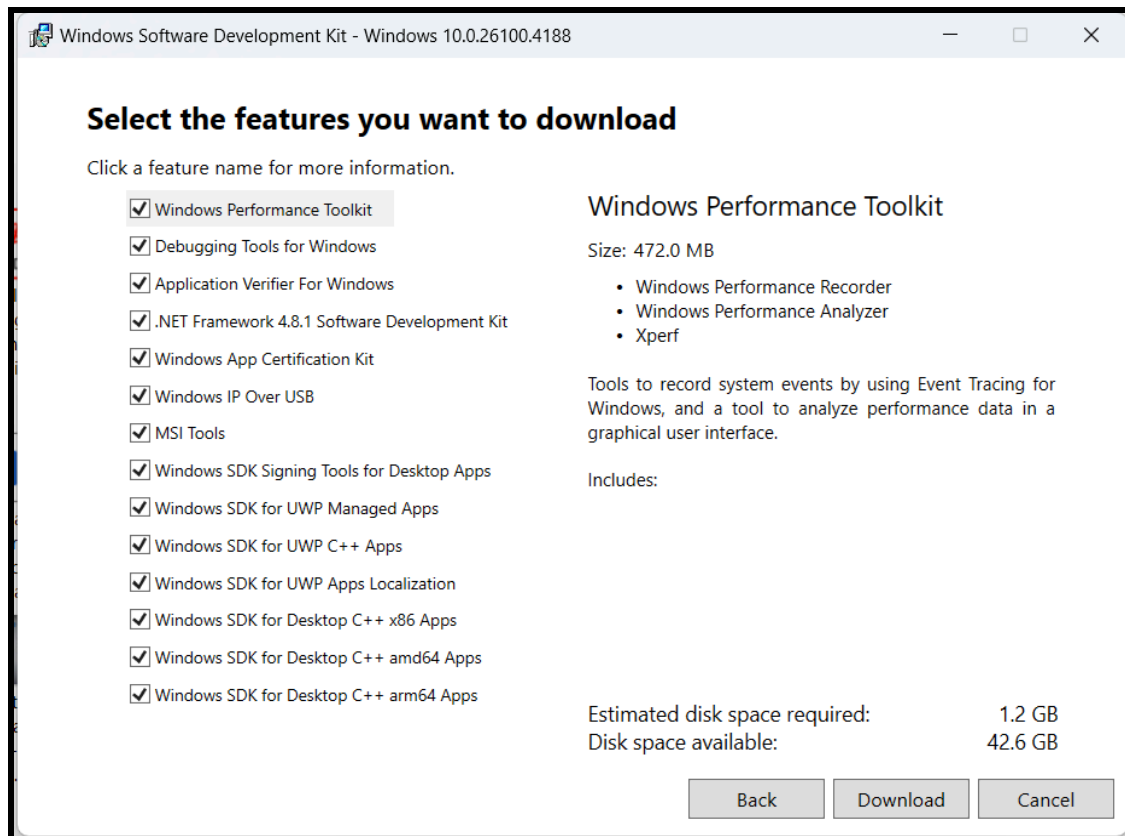
8) Navigate to this path **C:\Users\siddhesh\Downloads\Windows Kits\10\WindowsSDK\Installers** and search for **Orca-x86_en-us.msi**
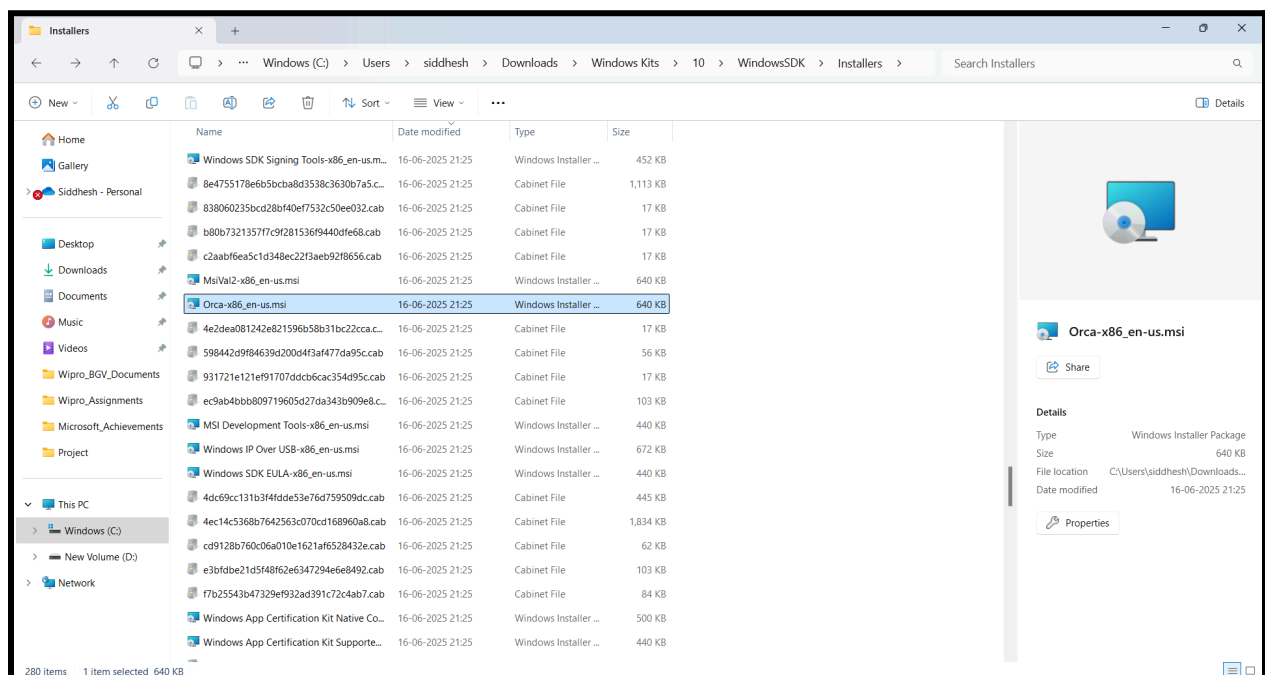
9) Open Orca-x86_en-us.msi and the **Orca** application will be installed on the system
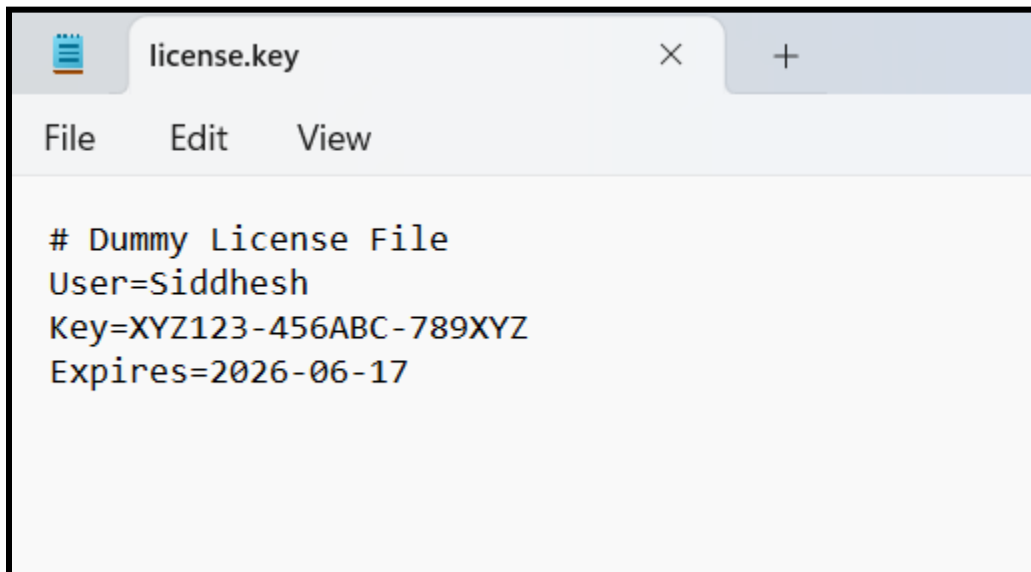
10) Download a msi project from any source **dummy_msi_project.zip** and extract it into any directory **Project**
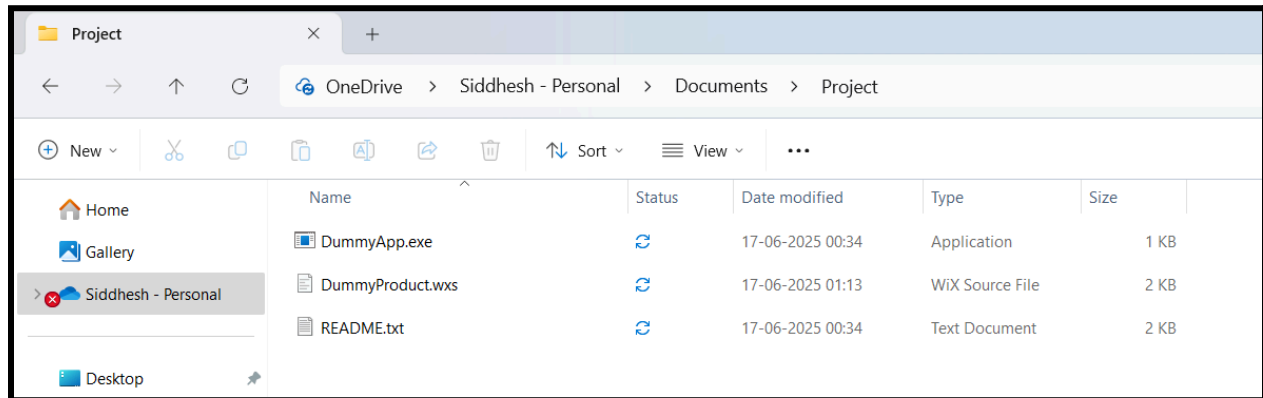
11) Open **DummyProduct.wxs** and modify it as in the picture
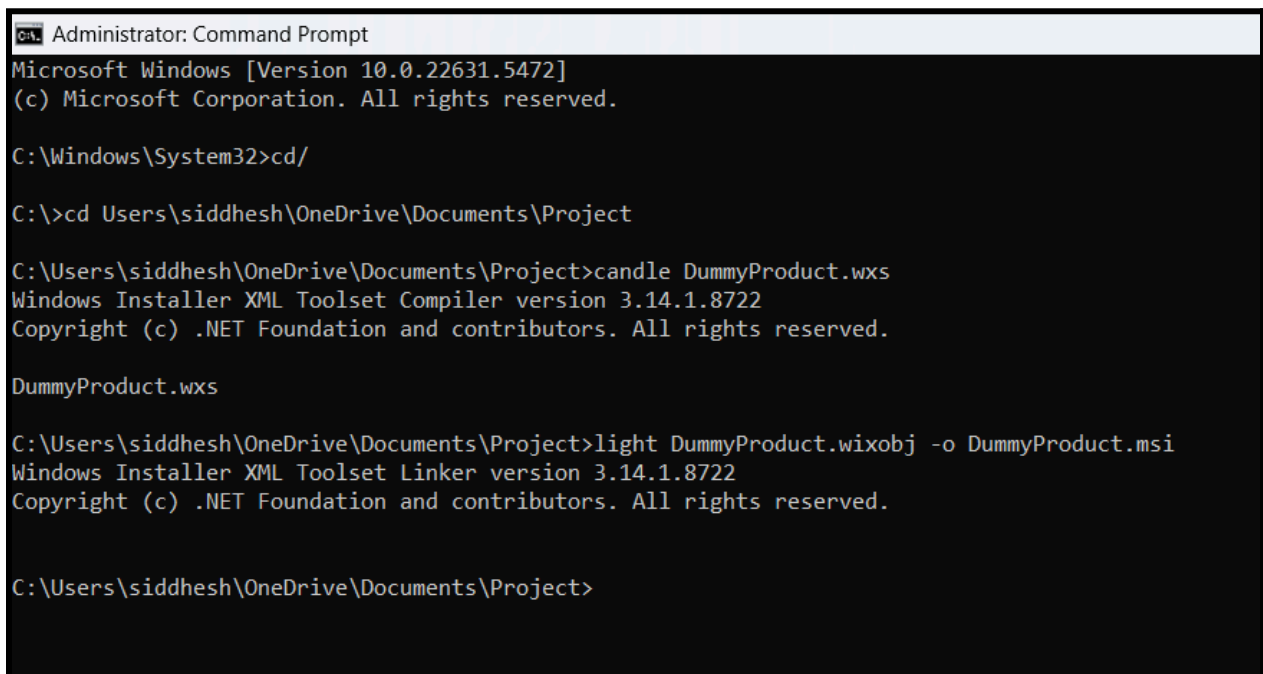
12) Open **Notepad** and create an **dummy license key** file and save it in the same directory **Project**

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

14) Open **Orca (run as administrator)** then click on **FIle** then **Open** and select the .msi file **DummyProduct.msi** and click **Open**
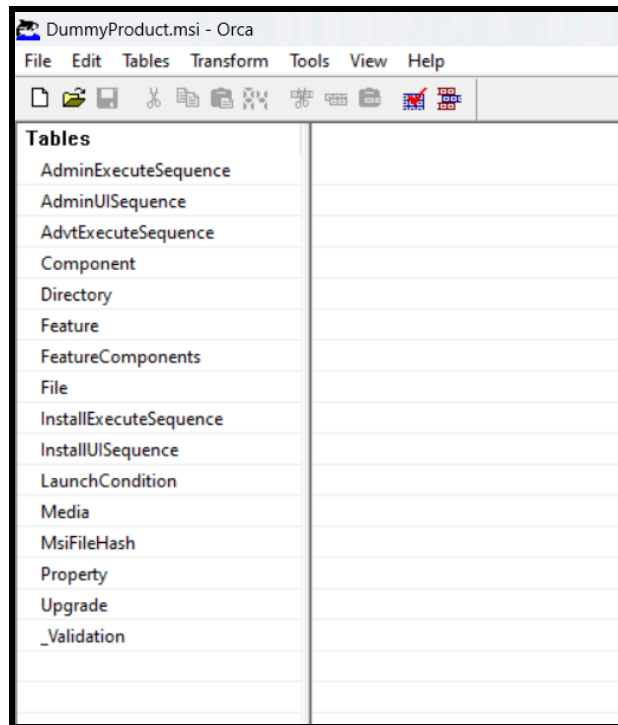
15) In left panel click **File** then right click on Column name **File** and click **Add Row**

16) Put the information according to the .wxs file **DummyProduct.wxs**

Add Row ✕

Name	Value
🔑 File	LICENSE.KEY
Component_	LicenseFile
FileName	license.key
FileSize	20000
Version	

Column
Version - String[72]

[OK] [Cancel]

Add Row ✕

Name	Value
FileSize	20000
Version	
Language	
Attributes	152
Sequence	153

Column
Language - String[20]

[OK] [Cancel]

17) Check the details and save the .msi file **DummyProduct.msi**

DummyProduct.msi - Orca

File   Edit   Tables   Transform   Tools   View   Help

Tables	File	Compone...	FileName	FileS...	Vers...	Langu...	Attribu...	Seque...
AdminExecuteSequence	LicenseKeyFile	LicenseFile	license.key	81			512	1
AdminUISequence	LICENSE.KEY	LicenseFile	license.key	20000			152	153
AdvtExecuteSequence								
Component								
Directory								
Feature								
FeatureComponents								
File								
InstallExecuteSequence								
InstallUISequence								
LaunchCondition								
Media								
MsiFileHash								
Property								
Upgrade								
_Validation								

18) The **license.key** file is inside **MSI Package** now
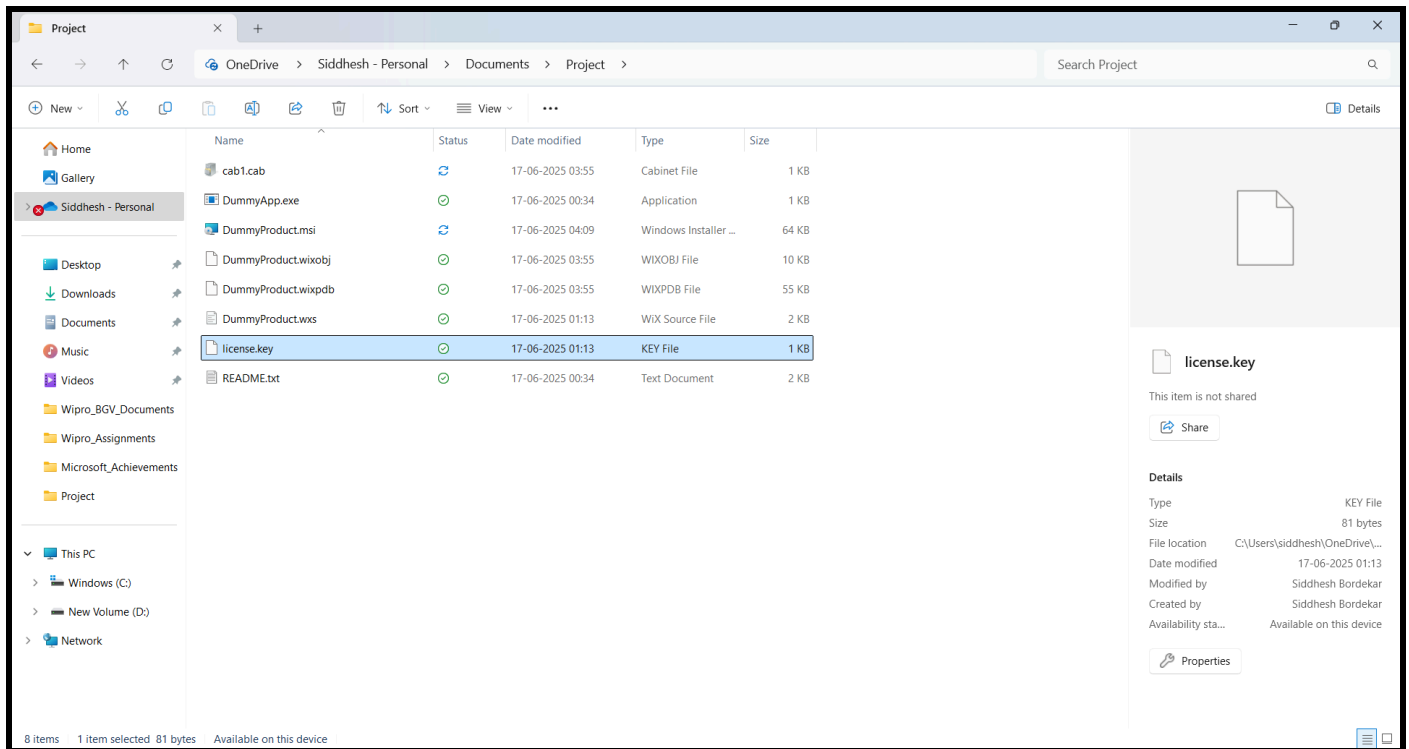
❖ **Analysis Result:**

- **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