

Lab: Automated Windows Installation Using an Answer File and ISO Editor

Objective:

By the end of this lab, students will be able to create an answer file using the Windows Answer File Generator, integrate it into a Windows ISO using AnyBurn, and perform an automated installation of Windows.

Materials Needed:

- A computer with internet access.
 - A Windows ISO file.
 - A USB drive (8 GB or larger) or a virtual machine.
 - Access to the following websites:
 - **Windows Answer File Generator:** <https://www.windowsafg.com/>
 - **AnyBurn Download:** <https://www.anyburn.com/download.php>
 - The AnyBurn software installed on your computer.
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Steps:

Part 1: Create an Answer File

1. **Visit Windows Answer File Generator:**
 - Open your web browser and go to [Windows Answer File Generator](https://www.windowsafg.com/).
2. **Configure the Answer File:**
 - Select the version of Windows you want to install.
 - Configure the settings such as language, keyboard layout, time zone, partitioning, and other preferences.
 - Include your product key (if required), and set up user accounts, and other relevant settings.
3. **Generate the Answer File:**
 - Once all configurations are complete, click on the "Generate" button.
 - Download the `autounattend.xml` file provided by the site.

Part 2: Edit the Windows ISO Using AnyBurn

1. **Download and Install AnyBurn:**
 - Go to [AnyBurn Download](https://www.anyburn.com/download.php) and download the latest version of AnyBurn.
 - Install AnyBurn on your computer.
2. **Open the Windows ISO with AnyBurn:**
 - Launch AnyBurn and select "**Edit image file**" from the main menu.
 - Open your Windows ISO file by clicking "**Open**" and browsing to the location of the ISO file.
3. **Add the Answer File to the ISO:**
 - Navigate to the root directory of the ISO.
 - Click on "**Add**" and select the `autounattend.xml` file that you generated earlier.
 - Ensure the `autounattend.xml` file is in the root directory of the ISO.

4. **Save the Modified ISO:**

- Once the `autounattend.xml` file has been added, click on **"Save"**.
- Save the modified ISO with a new name, e.g., `Windows_Auto.iso`.

Part 3: Perform the Automated Windows Installation

1. **Create a Bootable USB Drive (Optional):**

- If you are installing on a physical machine, use a tool like **Rufus** or **AnyBurn** to create a bootable USB drive from the modified ISO.
- If using **AnyBurn**, select **"Burn image file to disc/USB"** and follow the prompts to create a bootable USB.

2. **Boot from the USB Drive or ISO:**

- Insert the USB drive into the target computer or mount the ISO in a virtual machine.
- Boot from the USB drive or the ISO file.

3. **Automated Installation Process:**

- The Windows Setup process will automatically detect the `autounattend.xml` file and begin the installation.
- The installation will proceed without requiring any manual input, based on the settings configured in the answer file.

4. **Post-Installation Verification:**

- Once the installation is complete, verify that the settings configured in the answer file were applied correctly (e.g., user accounts, network settings, etc.).

5. **Take a Screenshot:**

- Capture a screenshot of your desktop or system settings showing that the automated installation was successful.
- Include this screenshot in your lab report.

Lab Report:

- Include the following in your lab report:
 - A brief description of the steps you followed.
 - Any issues encountered and how they were resolved.
 - The screenshot showing the successful installation.
 - A reflection on what you learned from automating the Windows installation process.