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TechTarget

Independent, technical advice for virtualization pros

Application Packaging Smackdown

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Featuring:

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Session Goals

- Describe the different packaging capabilities being offered by each vendor

- Provide guidance as to how these tools can be assessed for your environment

- Show some insight into features that make certain tools unique

- Give high level recommendations about tooling a packaging environment

History

- SetupAPI – INF

- No toolset – a framework / engine

- Windows Installer 1.0 – Office 2000

  - Database that interacts with service to ensure stability

- Other: WiseInstaller / Wisescript, InnoSetup NSIS, InstallShield, Oracle Universal Installer

- Windows Installer 5.0 – Windows 8

- WiX

  - XML format

  - Command-line toolset

  - VS 2012 recommends WiX

Why Repackage?

- TCO reduction
- Automated
  - Large deployment cost reduction
- Standardized delivery
  - Improve user experience
  - Lower troubleshooting costs

Example Cost Model

# of Installs	Manual Install Time (hrs)	Automated Man Hours	Hours Saved	Manual Cost	Automated Cost	Cost Savings
1	1	10	-9	$ 65.00	$ 975.00	$ (910.00)
2	2	12	-10	$ 130.00	$ 1,170.00	$ (1,040.00)
4	4	14	-10	$ 260.00	$ 1,365.00	$ (1,105.00)
8	8	16	-8	$ 520.00	$ 1,560.00	$ (1,040.00)
16	16	18	-2	$ 1,040.00	$ 1,755.00	$ (715.00)
32	32	20	12	$ 2,080.00	$ 1,950.00	$ 130.00
64	64	22	42	$ 4,160.00	$ 2,145.00	$ 2,015.00
128	128	24	104	$ 8,320.00	$ 2,340.00	$ 5,980.00
256	256	26	230	$ 16,640.00	$ 2,535.00	$ 14,105.00
512	512	28	484	$ 33,280.00	$ 2,730.00	$ 30,550.00
1024	1024	30	994	$ 66,560.00	$ 2,925.00	$ 63,635.00
2048	2048	32	2016	$ 133,120.00	$ 3,120.00	$ 130,000.00
4096	4096	34	4062	$ 266,240.00	$ 3,315.00	$ 262,925.00
8192	8192	36	8156	$ 532,480.00	$ 3,510.00	$ 528,970.00
16384	16384	38	16346	$ 1,064,960.00	$ 3,705.00	$ 1,061,255.00

*Remember this is initial deployment costs. Add / Removes can lower the threshold to ROI.

Product Capabilities Group 1

MSI Packaging Tools

MSI Factory

- Builds MSI packages based on WiX

- No Enterprise database

- Not a repackaging tool

- Straight forward

    - Advanced options

MSI Factory

InstallAware

- Installation suite
- Virtualization capabilities (AVE as an editor)
- Easy to use
  - Extensive prereq
  - Easy to use for everything
  - Intended for developers
  - Repackaging only available in Admin edition ($$)

InstallAware

InfoPulse Packaging Accelerator Center

- Suite of tools

- Automated Packaging Self Center - cloud

- MSI / App-V / Documentation

- Basic snapshot

- Private / public cloud

- Docu Generator – PSR-lookalike

Infopulse MSI Generator

Infopulse MSI Editor

EMCO MSI Package Builder

- Simple snapshot tool

- Simplified view of the MSI

- Barely suffice for novice

- No CustomAction
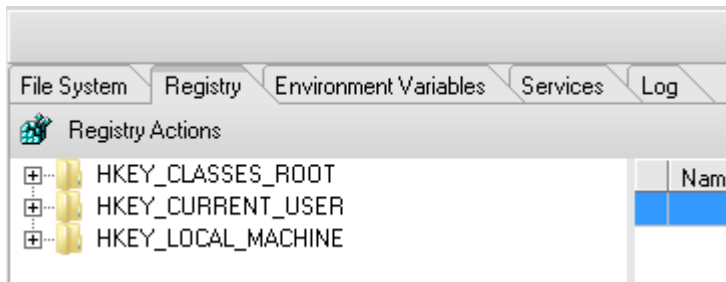
AppDeploy Repackager

- Simple snapshot tool
  - Slow
- Packaging Recipes
- Run from network
- Novice friendly
  - Lacking advanced options
- Free!

AdminStudio

- One of the longest standing repackaging tools.
- Extensive packaging toolset with application compatibility toolset
  - Also includes workflow
- Can scale up to multiple packaging teams within an organization
- Can automate application compatibility and packaging of applications (also supports PowerShell)
- Requires a good amount of training to be proficient
- Some feature overlap between tools in the suite (can be confusing to develop workflows)

AdminStudio
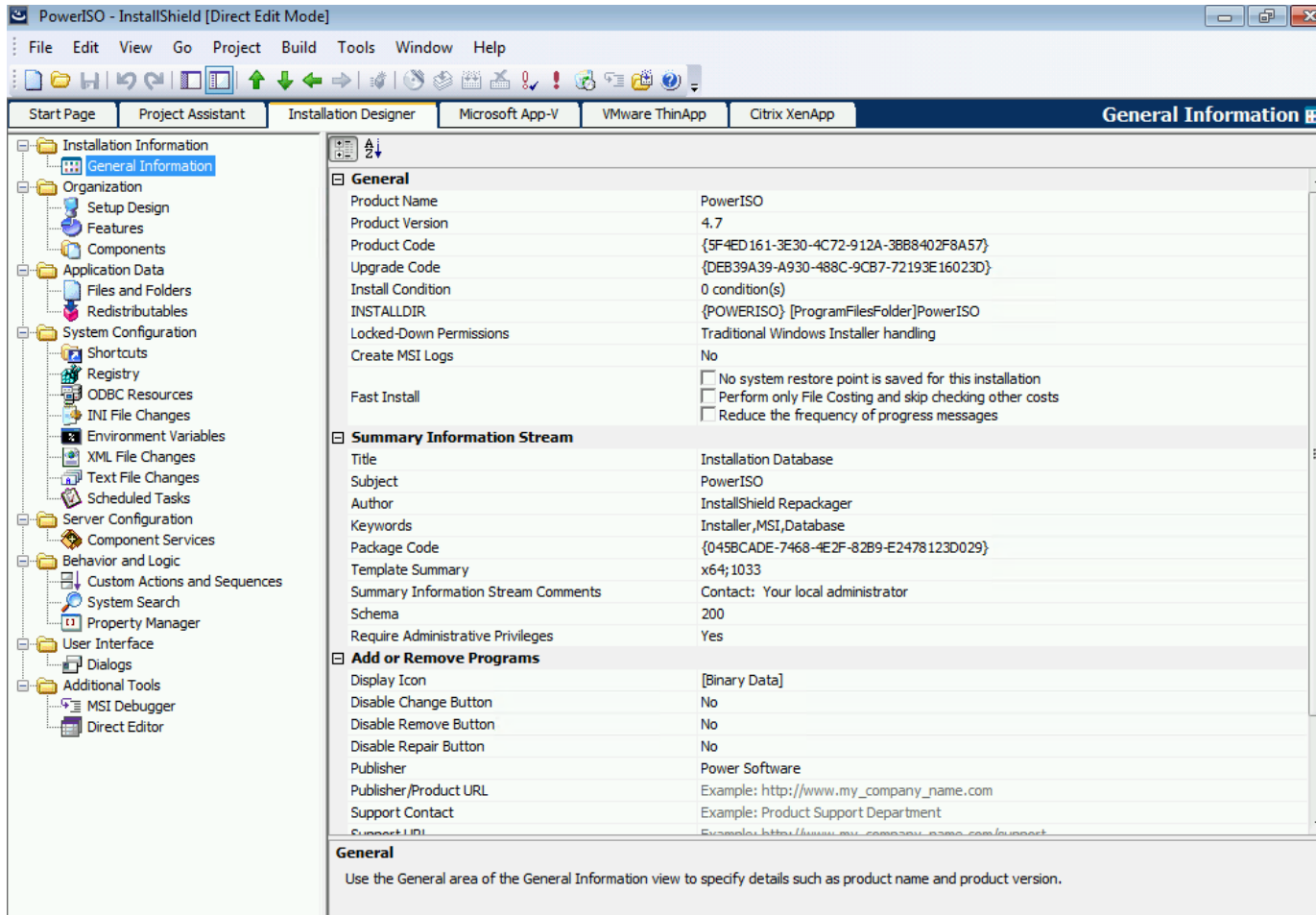
DEMO

Adminstudio

Trends

- Tools trying to expand beyond Windows Installer

- App-V integration seems to be the preferred virtualization format to adopt

- Enterprise vendor's such as Flexera adopting application compatibility features

- Competition does not really exist when comparing against Adminstudio*

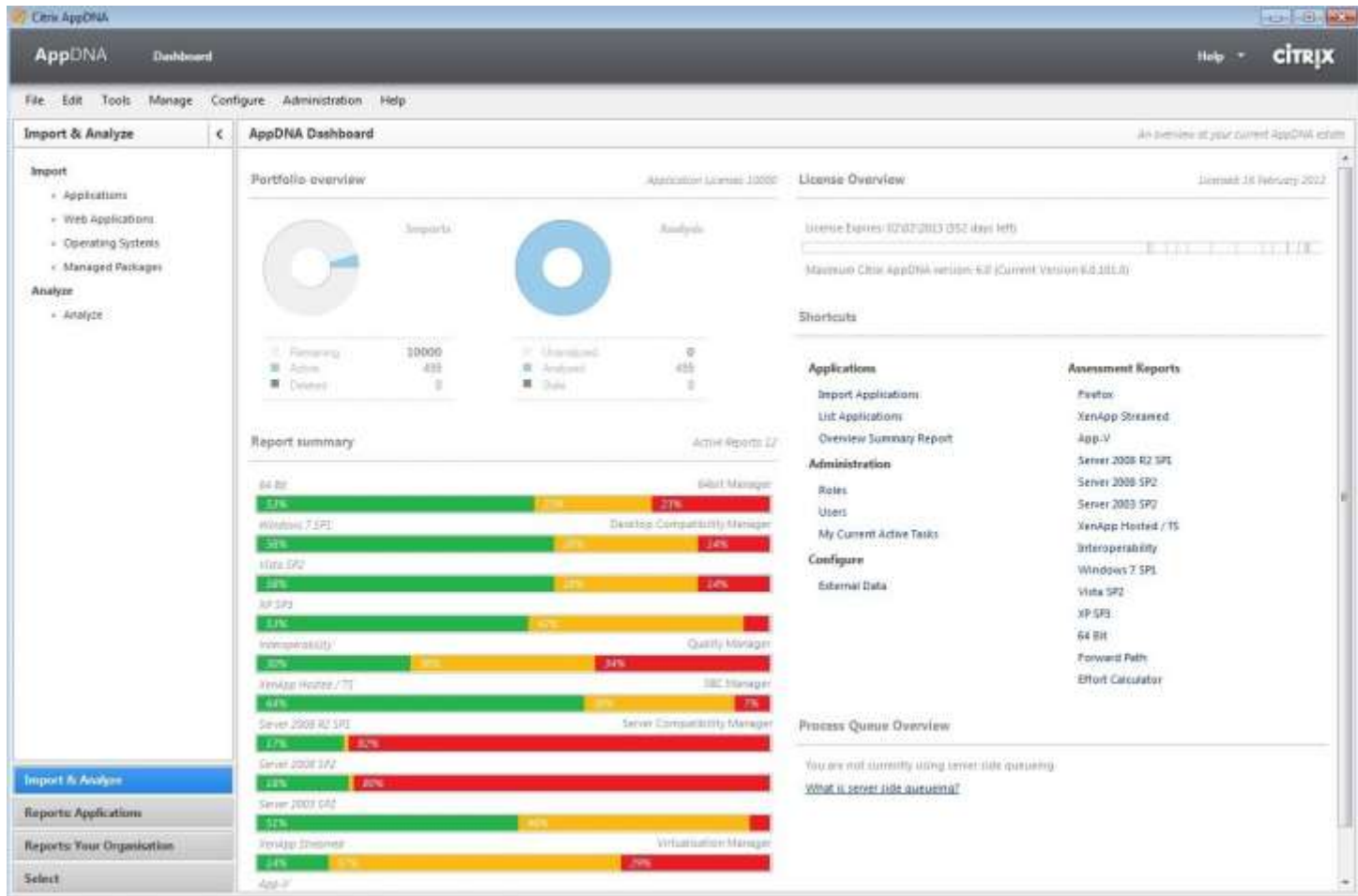- Smaller install authoring vendors are entering the repackaging space

Product Capabilities Group 2

Application Compatibility

AppDNA

- Automated application, packaging testing and remediation

- Static analysis of applications through MSIs

- Virtual application support

AppDNA

ChangeBase

- Automated application packaging, testing and remediation

- Dell MSI studio included for Windows Installer editing

- Static analysis of applications through MSI technology

- Patch impact analysis

- Virtual application support

ChangeBase

ChangeBase: Dell / Quest / ScriptLogic MSI Studio

- MSI Repackaging tool comes with Changebase

- Enterprise database

- Straight forward
  - Advanced options

ChangeBase: MSI Studio
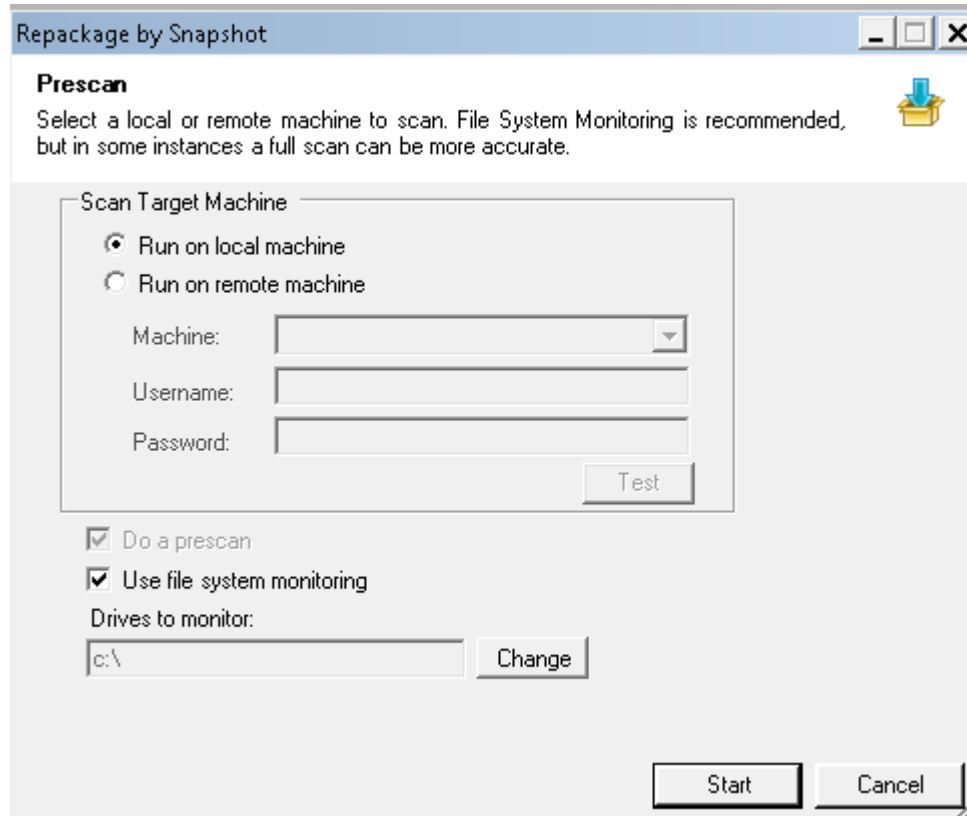
DEMO

MSI Studio

Application Compatibility Toolkit

- Runtime application analysis
- Software inventory compared with the compatibility community (static analysis)
- Easy shim generation for user permission issues (Standard User Analyzer)
- Full application compatibility shim editor
- Free!

ACT

Trends

- Application compatibility vendors entering the package creation space

- Application compatibility tools are generally expensive to license aside

- Changebase going as far as providing a Windows Installer packaging tool

- ACT is still a staple but runtime analysis does crash some applications

- Compatibility tools don't replace user acceptance testing

- Will Changebase be an alternative to Adminstudio?

Product Capabilities Group 4

Virtual Application Packaging

App-V Sequencer

- App-V Monitoring tool
  - Enforces App-V best practices
  - Reports of potential App-V suitability issues
- Has post sequencing (packaging) editors
- Limited advanced options from GUI
  - No scripting support
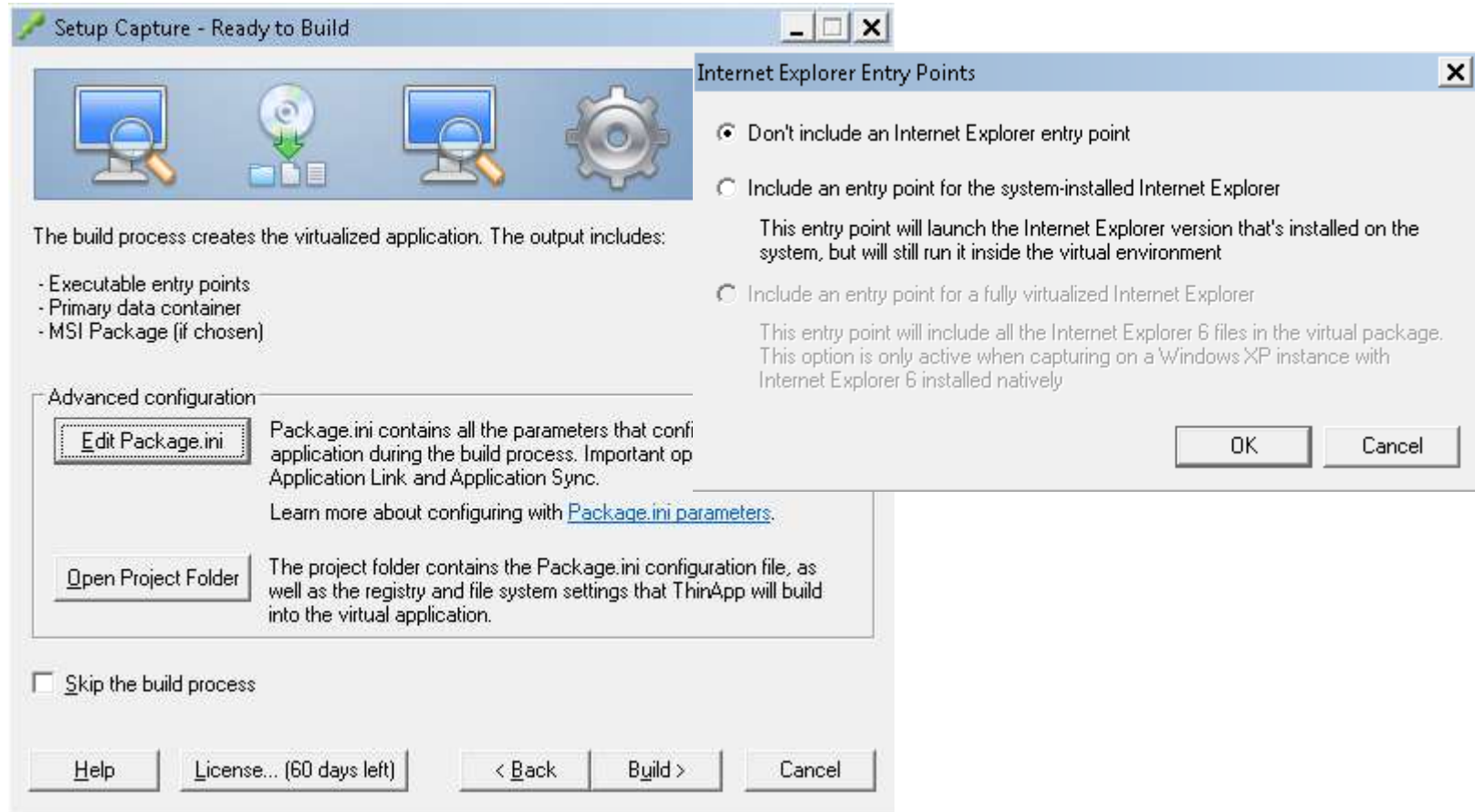 - Minimal cleanup of virtual extensions

App-V Sequencer
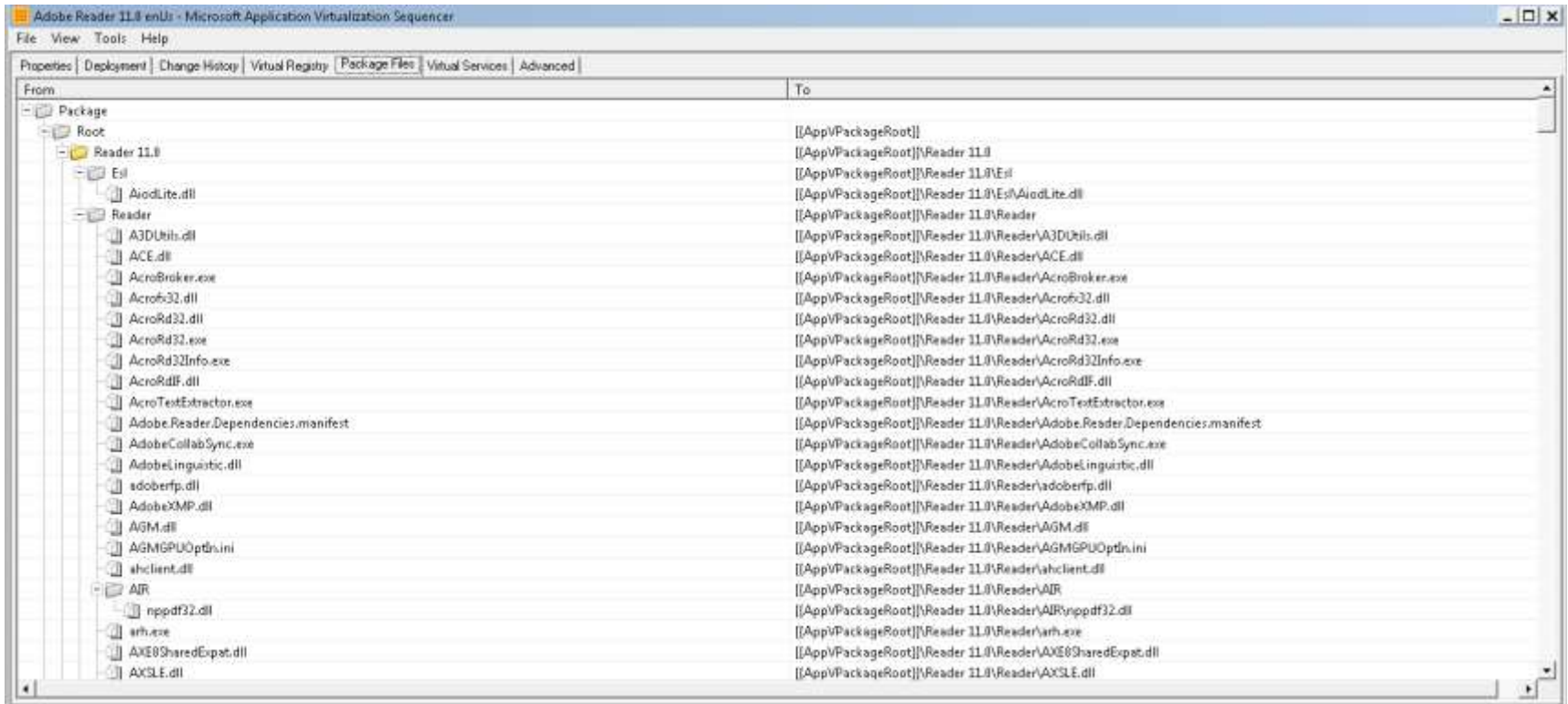
Thinapp Setup Capture

- Pre-scan / Post-scan based tool
- Easy to use wizard
  - Allow for easy Internet Explorer capture
  - Save Project
  - Compile project
- Advanced configuration possible outside of tool
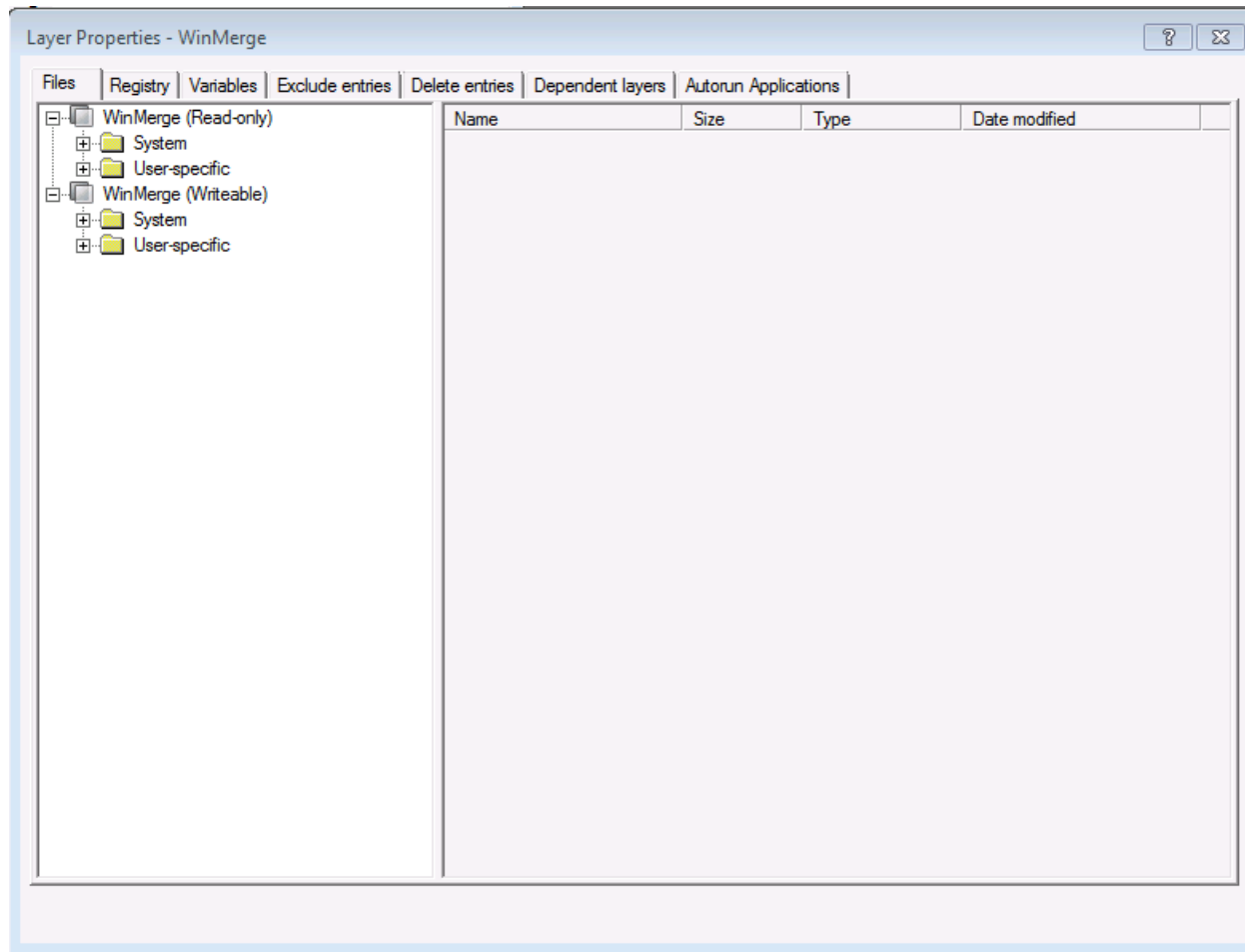 - All configuration performed via Package.ini

Thinapp Setup Capture

Symantec Workspace Virtualization

- One of the first application virtualization platforms
- Focus is more on redirection and layering of applications than isolation
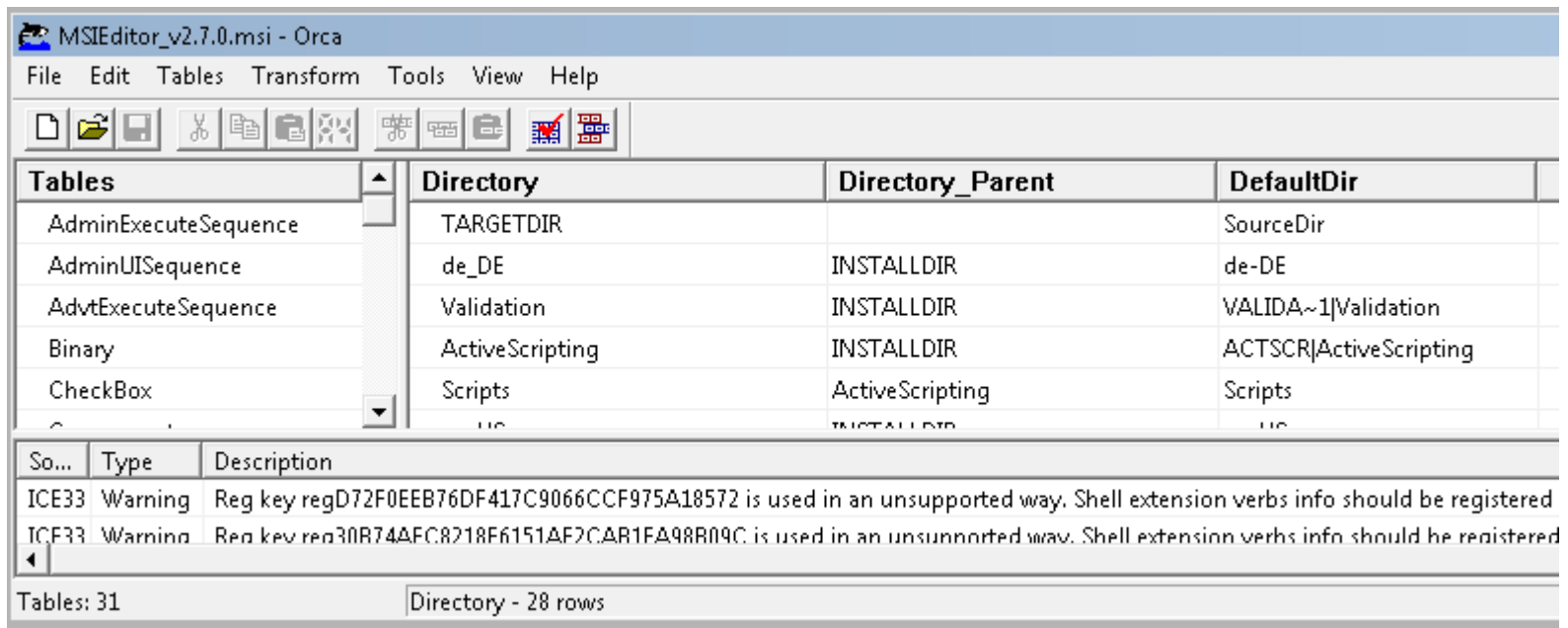
Symantec Workspace Virtualization

Trends

- App-V Sequencer is the most frequently updated vendor tool and has the most feature additions

- Other vendors supply enough tooling to make packages

- Symantec is still in the game but Citrix is out

Niche Products

Specialized Products to Optimize Packaging

Orca

- Table editor
- Locks files
- Overlay MST files
- Win8 SDK (Free!)

SuperOrca

- Easy to download

- Table editor

- Does not lock MSI / MST files

- Overlay MST files

- Search capabilities

- Free!

SuperOrca

InstED Plus

- Table editor

- Locks files

- Overlay MST files

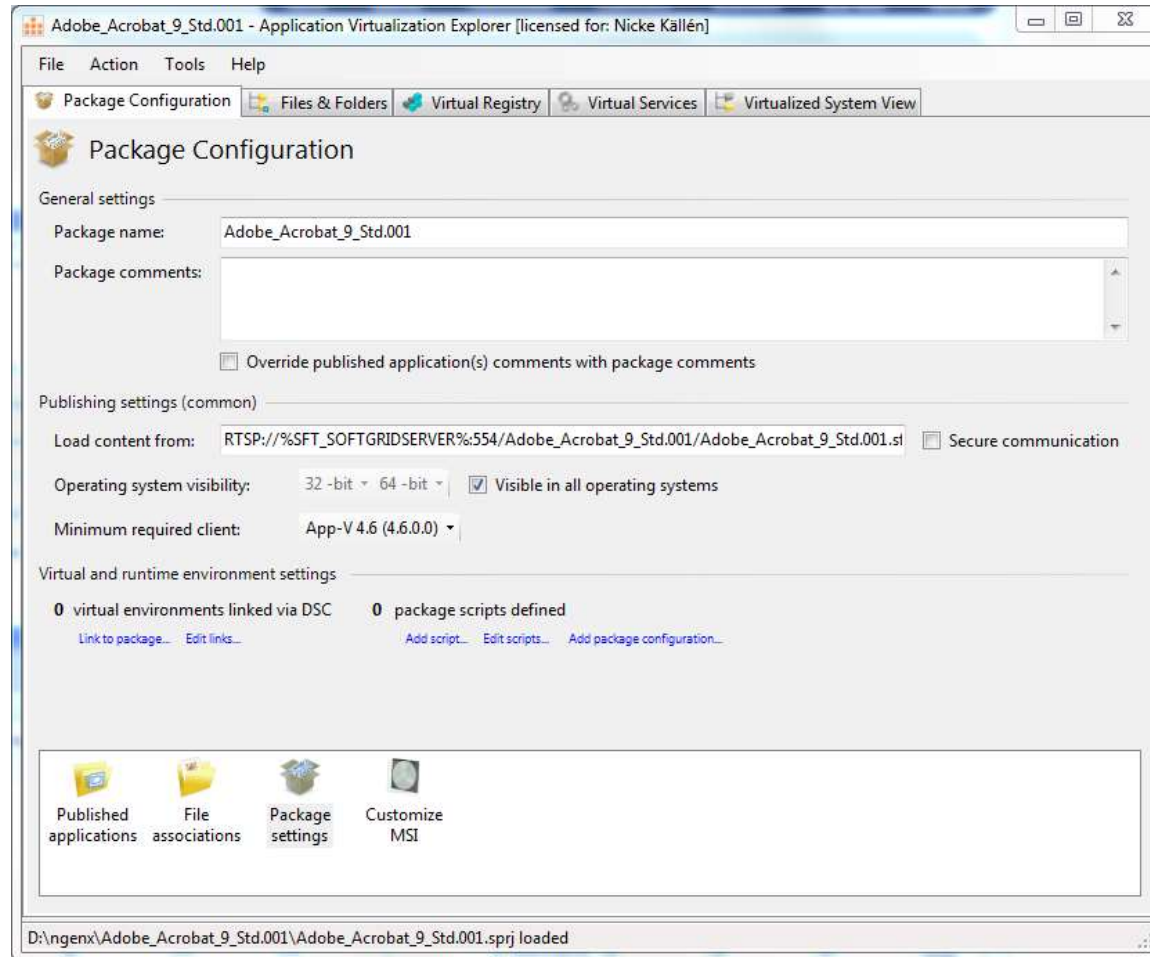 - Show relationships

  - Color codes changes

DEMO

Orca, Super Orca and InstEd

Application Virtualization Explorer

- Only for App-V 4.X packages

- Allows for advanced editing of packages

    - All potential options

- Pre-defined script templates

    - GUI for common tasks

    - Can use a RunAs account

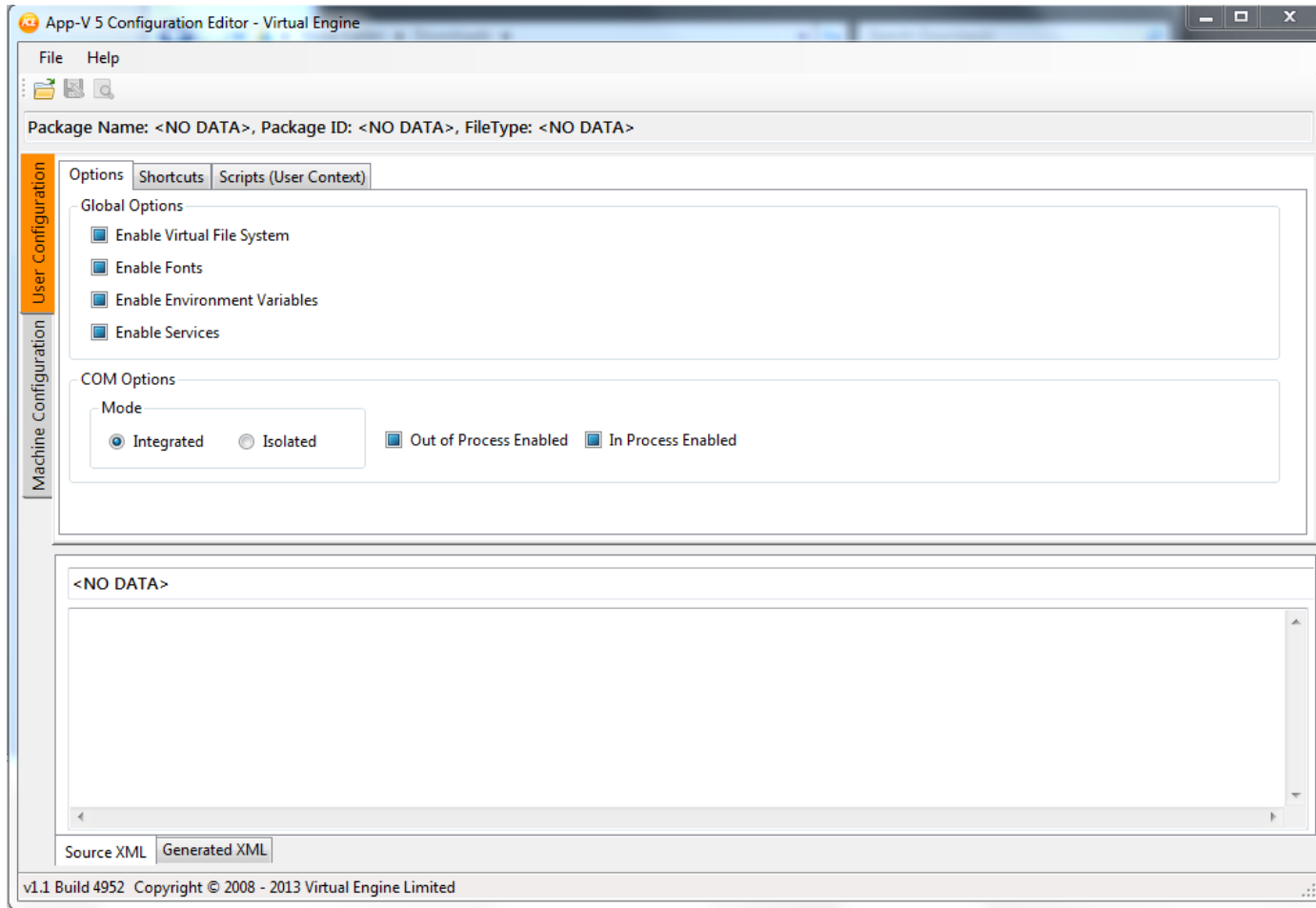# Application Virtualization Explorer

DEMO

Application Virtualization Explorer

App-V 5 Configuration Editor

- GUI for creation of XML-based configuration files
- Easy to use
- Raw edit, no wizard or pre-defined templates

App-V 5 Configuration Editor

Trends

- MSI and App-V have add-on tools

- Windows Installer has the largest tool ecosystem followed by App-V then WIX

Overall Trends

- Changebase may be the only enterprise alternative to Adminstudio

- Packaging suites can be built by selecting different tools from different vendors though selecting an alternative MSI repackaging tool is difficult (i.e. ACT + EMCO or AdminStudio (STD) + InstED + App-V Sequencer)

- Application Virtualization Explorer is money well spent if looking to buy an enhancement for App-V

TechTarget

Where serious technology buyers decide