

Setup.exe and Update.exe Command-Line Parameters

InstallShield 2018

Setup.exe can accept a number of command-line parameters. Update.exe (available only for Basic MSI and InstallScript MSI projects) accepts nearly all of the same command-line parameters. Using these parameters, end users can specify such data as the language that the installation should run in and whether to launch Setup.exe silently. For Basic MSI and InstallScript MSI, end users can also pass parameters through Setup.exe to the included .msi file.

Note • Command-line options that require a parameter must be specified with no space between the option and its parameter. For example, Setup.exe /v"ALLUSERS=2" is valid, while Setup.exe /v "ALLUSERS=2" is not. Quotation marks around an option's parameter are required only if the parameter contains spaces. If a path within a parameter contains spaces, you may need to use quotation marks within quotation marks, as in the following example:

```
Setup.exe /v"INSTALLDIR=\"c:\My Files\""
```

Project • Some of the command-line options apply to only certain project types. Project-specific information is listed for each option.

Built-In Command-Line Parameters

This section describes valid command-line parameters for Setup.exe. The parameters are organized into the following categories:

Silent Installations

Parameters for Silent Installations

Parameter	Project Type	Description
-----------	--------------	-------------

/p"password"	Basic MSI, InstallScript MSI	If you configured the password-related settings for your release on the Setup.exe tab in the Releases view, the end user must specify the password with the /p option when running the installation silently. A typical command is as follows: Setup.exe /s /p"password"
/r	InstallScript, InstallScript MSI	Use this command line to run the installation in record mode. In order to run an InstallScript MSI or InstallScript installation in silent mode, you must first run Setup.exe with the /r option to generate a response file, which stores information about the data entered and options selected by the user at run time. Launching an InstallScript MSI or InstallScript installation with the /r parameter displays all the run-time dialogs and stores the data in a file called Setup.iss, created inside the system's Windows folder. To specify an alternative response file name and location, use the /f1 option, described below. Basic MSI projects do not create or use a response file for silent installations.

/s	Basic MSI, InstallScript, InstallScript MSI	For an InstallScript MSI or InstallScript project, the command Setup.exe /s runs the installation in silent mode, by default based on the responses contained in a response file called Setup.iss in the same directory. (Response files are created by running Setup.exe with the /r option.) To specify an alternative file name or location of the response file, use the /f1 option. The command Setup.exe /s also suppresses the Setup.exe initialization dialog for a Basic MSI installation, but it does not read a response file. To run a Basic MSI installation silently, use the following command line: Setup.exe /s /v/qn To specify the values of public properties for a silent Basic MSI installation, you can use a command such as the following one: Setup.exe /s /v"/qn INSTALLDIR=D:\Destination" Note • Using this command-line parameter to launch an installation that includes an InstallShield prerequisite does not automatically run the prerequisite installation silently. You may also need to specify a valid silent command-line parameter for the InstallShield prerequisite in the Specify the command line for the application when the setup is running in silent mode setting on the Application to Run tab in the InstallShield Prerequisite Editor. For more information, see Specifying Command-Line Parameters for an InstallShield Prerequisite.
/f1	InstallScript, InstallScript MSI	Using the /f1 option enables you to specify where the response file is (or where it should be created) and what its name is, as in the following example: Setup.exe /s /f1"C:\Temp\Setup.iss" Specify an absolute path; using a relative path gives unpredictable results. The /f1 option is available both when creating a response file (with the /r option) and when using a response file (with the /s option).

/f2	InstallScript, InstallScript MSI	When running an InstallScript MSI or InstallScript installation in silent mode (using the /s option), the log file Setup.log is by default created in the same directory and with the same name (except for the extension) as the response file. The /f2 option enables you to specify an alternative log file location and file name, as in the following example: Setup.exe /s /f2"C:\Setup.log" Specify an absolute path; using a relative path gives unpredictable results.
-----	----------------------------------	--

Special Installation Modes

Parameters for Special Installation Modes

Parameter	Project Type	Description
/a	Basic MSI, InstallScript MSI	Note • The /a parameter does not work with Update.exe. Update.exe launches a patch that accesses and modifies an existing cached .msi file on the system, and an administrative installation does not cache the .msi file. The /a option causes Setup.exe to perform an administrative installation. An administrative installation copies (and uncompresses) your data files to a directory that is specified by the user, but it does not create shortcuts, register COM servers, or create an uninstallation log. Tip • If an installation contains InstallShield prerequisites and you want to extract them from Setup.exe, add a path after the /a parameter to extract the prerequisites to that location. A sample command is Setup.exe /a"C:\temp".
/j	Basic MSI, InstallScript MSI	The /j option causes Setup.exe to perform an advertised installation. An advertised installation creates shortcuts, registers COM servers, and registers file types, but does not install your product's files until the user invokes one of these "entry points."
/x	Basic MSI, InstallScript MSI	The /x option causes Setup.exe to uninstall a previously installed product.

Parameter	Project Type	Description
/uninst	InstallScript, InstallScript MSI (if the InstallScript user interface (UI) style is the traditional style, which uses the InstallScript engine as an external UI handler)	Important • This parameter does not apply to InstallScript MSI projects in which the InstallScript UI style is the new style (which uses the InstallScript engine as an embedded UI handler). To learn more, see Using the InstallScript Engine as an External vs. Embedded UI Handler for InstallScript MSI Installations. The /uninst option is provided for compatibility with earlier versions of InstallShield. This option causes the InstallScript engine to execute the event handler function OnUninstall, whose default code uninstalls the previously installed product. Project • Note that in InstallScript MSI installations, the /uninst parameter does not invoke the InstallScript engine uninstall behavior that processes install log and removes any resources that were created and logged through script. However, the /removeonly option does invoke this behavior.
/removeonly	InstallScript, InstallScript MSI	The /removeonly option sets the REMOVEONLY system variable equal to a non-zero value. The default code for the OnMaintUIBefore event handler function conditionally displays the SdWelcomeMaint dialog, depending on the value of REMOVEONLY.

Parameter	Project Type	Description
/instance=<Instanceld>	Basic MSI	The /instance=<Instanceld> option—which is available for Basic MSI projects that support the installation of multiple instances of a product—lets you specify which instance you want to install, update, or uninstall. <Instanceld> represents the value of the Instanceld property that identifies the instance. Whenever you use this option and include a valid Instanceld value, the installation suppresses the instance selection dialog. For example, the following sample command line installs the instance that has 2 as the value of the Instanceld property: Setup.exe /instance=2 Use default to identify the instance that is installed by the base installation package, as in the following example: Setup.exe /instance=default To specify the instance that you want to uninstall, include the /x option with the /instance=<Instanceld> option. For more information, see Naming an Instance and Run-Time Behavior for Installing Multiple Instances of a Product.

Passing Data to the Installation

Parameters for Passing Data to the Installation

Parameter	Project Type	Description
-----------	--------------	-------------

/v	Basic MSI, InstallScript MSI	Use the /v option to pass command-line options and values of public properties through to Msiexec.exe. If you want to pass more than one argument to Msiexec.exe, you can use the /v option multiple times at the command line, once for each argument. For example: <pre>Setup.exe /v"/! *v c:\test.log" /v"MYPROPERTY1=value1" /v"/qb"</pre> As an alternative, you can pass multiple arguments through the /v option as in the following example: <pre>Setup.exe /v"/! *v c:\test.log MYPROPERTY1=value1 /qb"</pre> Note • If you pass the /v parameter at the command prompt when launching Setup.exe, any parameters that are specified for the CmdLine keyname in Setup.ini are ignored. To learn more, see Setup.ini.
/v"ISSCRIPTCMDLINE=\"<Option1><Option2>\""	Basic MSI projects that have InstallScript custom actions	This option specifies command-line parameters to be passed to the script. Any property supported by InstallScript MSI (where appropriate) can be specified. (The most common ones are /d and /z.) For example, the following indicates that you want to debug the script, and that the CMDLINE variable should contain TEST. <pre>Setup.exe /v"ISSCRIPTCMDLINE=\"-d -zTEST\""</pre> Note that as shown above, when you want to specify that a double quote character is not a delimiter for the command line but a delimiter for the property, use \". Note also that as with any public Windows Installer property, this property should be specified with all uppercase letters.
/z	InstallScript MSI	The /z option is used to pass data to the InstallScript system variable CMDLINE, as in the following example: <pre>Setup.exe /z"My Custom Data"</pre> When this command line is used, the variable CMDLINE contains the string My Custom Data.

Download and Cache Locations (Basic MSI and InstallScript MSI Projects)

Parameters for Download and Cache Locations

Parameter	Project Type	Description
/ua /uw	Basic MSI, InstallScript MSI	In the Release Wizard, you can specify download locations for the Windows Installer installers InstMsiA.exe and InstMsiW.exe. A user can specify an alternative URL at run time using the /ua option (for the InstMsiA.exe location) and /uw option (for the InstMsiW.exe location), as in the following example: Setup.exe /uw"http://www.otherlocation.com/engines" The file name is not necessary. Note • You must specify the full URL with the parameters.
/um	Basic MSI, InstallScript MSI	In the Release Wizard, for a Web Downloader build, you can specify a download location for your .msi database. A user can specify an alternative URL using the /um option, as in the following example: Setup.exe /um"http://www.otherlocation.com/packages/product.msi" Note • You must specify the full URL with the parameter.
/b	Basic MSI, InstallScript MSI	In the Release Wizard, for a Downloader build, you can specify whether to cache the contents of a compressed package on the local system. With the /b option, the user can specify the directory in which to cache the installation files, as in the following example: Setup.exe /b"C:\CacheDirectory" Note • You must specify the full URL with the parameter.

Debugging

Parameters for Debugging

Parameter	Project Type	Description
-----------	--------------	-------------

/d	Basic MSI projects with InstallScript custom actions, InstallScript, InstallScript MSI	For an InstallScript project, running the command Setup.exe /d runs the installation program with the InstallScript Debugger. Note • Debugging InstallScript code requires the debug-information file Setup.dbg to be available. In addition, in order to debug an installation on a system other than your development machine, you need to copy certain files from your development machine to the debugging machine. To learn more, see Debugging an Installation on Any Computer. For a Basic MSI project, the following command runs your InstallScript custom actions in the InstallScript Debugger: Setup.exe /v"ISSCRIPTDEBUG=1 ISSCRIPTDEBUGPATH=\"path-to-Setup.dbg\""
/debuglog	Basic MSI, InstallScript MSI	The /debuglog parameter lets you generate a log file for Setup.exe. To generate a log named InstallShield.log in the same directory as the Setup.exe file, pass just the command-line parameter. Note that this does not work if the Setup.exe file is in a read-only location. For example: setup.exe /debuglog To specify the name and location of the log file, pass the path and name, as in the following example: Setup.exe /debuglog"C:\PathToLog\setupexe.log" To generate a log file for the feature prerequisites in the installation, use the /v parameter to set the ISDEBUGLOG property to the full path and file name for the log file, as follows: Setup.exe /debuglog"C:\PathToSetupLogFile\setup.log" /v"ISDEBUGLOG=prereq.log" You can use directory properties and environment variables in the path for the feature prerequisite log file.

SMS Data

Parameters for SMS Data

Parameter	Project Type	Description
/m	InstallScript, InstallScript MSI	The /m option causes Setup.exe to generate an SMS Management Information Format (.mif) file. Following is a typical command: Setup.exe /m"SampleApp" Including the ".mif" file extension is not necessary.
/m1	InstallScript, InstallScript MSI	Using the /m1 parameter (along with /m) enables you to specify a serial number to be written to the .mif file. A typical command is as follows: Setup.exe /m"SampleApp" /m1"1234-5678"
/m2	InstallScript, InstallScript MSI	Using the /m2 parameter (along with /m) enables you to specify a locale string to be written to the .mif file. A typical command is as follows: Setup.exe /m"SampleApp" /m2"ENU"

Minimum UI

Parameters for Minimum UI

Parameter	Project Type	Description
/passive	Advanced UI, Suite/Advanced UI	Use the /passive parameter to runs a suite installer setup in a minimum UI mode (just displaying a progress panel): Setup.exe /passive To uninstall using a minimum UI mode, use the following command: Setup.exe /passive /remove

Miscellaneous

Parameters for Miscellaneous

Parameter	Project Type	Description
-----------	--------------	-------------

/delayedstart:<number of seconds>	InstallScript	Specifies the amount of time (in seconds) by which initialization of the installation is delayed after Setup.exe is launched. Note • Using the -delayedstart option is recommended when manually launching an additional installation after reboot (for example, by using the RunOnce key). The delay allows the operation system to initialize completely; this prevents the problems—such as Remote Procedure Call (RPC) errors—that can occur if an installation initializes before the operating system has initialized completely. The recommended delay length is 30 seconds. Note that this option is not needed when the installation starts automatically after reboot (for example, due to a call to SdFinishReboot before reboot).
/runfromtemp	Basic MSI, InstallScript, InstallScript MSI	This parameter allows the setup author to always clone the setup and run it from the temporary directory, even if the setup does not meet the conditions for running from the temporary directory. This parameter is ignored if the setup is a self-extracting executable file (.exe).
/Clone_wait	InstallScript, Basic MSI, InstallScript MSI, Suite/Advanced UI	This parameter indicates that the original setup should wait for the cloned setup process to complete before exiting. By default, the original setup is enabled to wait for the completion of the installation process. For more information on Clone_wait, see Changing the Default Clone_wait Parameter for the Setup.
/extract_all:<path>	InstallScript	Specifies that a self-extracting package's files should not be run but simply extracted to the location that is specified by <path>.
/h	Basic MSI, InstallScript MSI	The build engine automatically creates an installation that supports Setup.exe cloning in cases where cloning is required (for example, multi-disk installations). If you need to do this manually, pass /h to Setup.exe and it will clone itself to a temporary location and run from that location.

/hide_progress

Basic MSI, InstallScript, InstallScript MSI

Suppresses the display of any small and standard progress dialogs that might be shown during initialization. The small progress dialog is usually used for installations that display a splash screen during initialization, since a standard-size progress dialog does not leave any space for the splash screen. Specifying the /hide_progress option hides the small progress dialog for those installations, so end users would see just the splash screen without any progress indication.

Note • For InstallScript installations: If you specify /hide_progress and include a splash screen in your InstallScript installation, the length of time that the splash screen is displayed depends on whether SmallProgress=Y or SmallProgress=N is specified in Setup.ini.

	•	If SmallProgress=Y is specified, the splash screen is shown for as long as the progress dialog would have been displayed if /hide_progress was not specified.
--	---	---

	•	If SmallProgress=N is specified, the splash screen is shown for the length of time specified in the SplashTime key; thus, using /hide_progress and SmallProgress=Y at the same time is not recommended.
--	---	---

For InstallScript MSI installations: If you include a splash screen, the installation automatically switches to the small progress dialog, and the splash screen is shown only during the time that the progress dialog is

/hide_splash	InstallScript, InstallScript MSI	Suppresses the display of the splash screen if one is included.
/hide_usd	InstallScript	Suppresses display of the dialog that is displayed by an update-enabled installation to let the end user select which instance of your product will be updated. This dialog is displayed by default when an update-enabled installation detects multiple previous instances. When this command-line option is used and an update-enabled installation detects multiple previous instances, the installation creates a new instance.
/ig{InstanceGUID}	InstallScript	Specifies the value of the system variable INSTANCE_GUID; for example, -ig{722C7440-B317-4B3B-AECA-0199EA4E7CDB}. If this option is not used, the installation automatically assigns a value to INSTANCE_GUID (for multi-instance installations, this value is a newly generated GUID; for standard installations, this value is the same as the value of PRODUCT_GUID). This option is useful if you have created an installation launcher—that is, a custom application that runs before your installation does to perform pre-setup tasks, such as determining the instance GUID that you want to use for the installation. Do not specify anything other than a valid GUID with this option.
/installfromweb"PathToDisk1Files"	InstallScript	This option is similar to the media_path option except that this option forces the installation to behave like a launched One-Click Install installation, even if the path to the media files is not a URL. Use this option if you are launching the installation from a Web page manually. In addition, this option is added automatically if the built-in Setup.ocx file is used to launch the installation.

/media_path"PathToDisk1Files"	InstallScript	This option indicates that the installation should look for the Disk1 files in the location that is specified. Note that only the Setup.exe file needs to be in the original launch location; the installation obtains all other required files from the specified location (including Setup.exe, which must be present in the media location). You can specify a URL as the path to the media files; in this case, the installation behaves like a launched One-Click Install installation, which always shows the security dialog. To learn more about the behavior of One-Click Install installations, see One-Click Install Installations in InstallScript Projects.
/L<LanguageID>	Basic MSI, InstallScript, InstallScript MSI	This option indicates that the installation should run in the specified language as specified. You can specify the language ID as either a hexadecimal or decimal number. If you specify the hexadecimal number, be sure to precede the value with 0x. For example, the following commands indicate that the installation should be run in German: <pre>Setup.exe -L0x0407 Setup.exe -L1031</pre> Note that if you specify a language ID that is not supported by the installation or you specify an invalid language ID, the parameter is ignored. Also note that if this parameter is specified and it is valid, the language dialog (if enabled) is automatically suppressed.
/w	Basic MSI, InstallScript MSI	For a Basic MSI project, the /w option forces Setup.exe to wait until the installation is complete before exiting. Note • If you are using the /w option in a batch file, you may want to precede the entire Setup.exe command-line option with start /WAIT. A properly formatted example of this usage is as follows: <pre>start /WAIT setup.exe /w</pre>
/SMS	InstallScript MSI	For an InstallScript MSI project, Setup.exe automatically waits for the installation to finish before exiting, so this option (used by earlier versions of InstallShield Professional) is no longer necessary.

Revision #2

Created 2025-01-08 15:17:33 UTC by willi

Updated 2025-01-08 15:22:41 UTC by willi