

Windows Sysprep - Automated Install Settings

Tested on Windows 7, 8.1 and 10

Creating an Answer File for Windows Unattended Setup

Computer Imaging is an important part of Life Cycle Management. Creating and deploying Windows images requires running the System Preparation (Sysprep) tool. Sysprep removes system-specific data from Windows ensuring a successful restoration of the image, and creates a "generalized" Windows installation that will then be ready for configuration at next bootup. This article is a step-by-step guide on creating an answer file for Sysprep to completely automate the Windows 7 setup.

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Creating a Sysprep unattended answer file

At this point you can either

- Use the Filewave Answer File Generator
- Use a 3rd party creation tool
- Manually create the answer file
- Skip this and have no answer file or an empty answer file (not recommended)



It is highly recommended generated answer files are used with matching Windows releases, e.g 1909 answer file with Windows 10 1909, etc. If preparing a newer Windows 10 release, e.g. 2004, generate a new matching 2004 answer file.

Filewave Answer File Generator

Tested on Windows 10 1909 and 2004

- [Filewave Answer File Generator - https://afg.filewave.com/](https://afg.filewave.com/)

3rd Party tool

The following are example links to online tools that will generate the XML:

- Win 7 - http://windowsafg.com/win7x86_x64.html
- Win 8 - http://windowsafg.com/win8x86_x64.html
- Win 8.1 - http://windowsafg.com/win8.1x86_x64.html
- Win 10 MBR - http://windowsafg.com/win10x86_x64.html
- Win 10 UEFI - https://www.windowsafg.com/win10x86_x64_uefi.html Customers have reported unsuccessful image deployment of Windows 10 2004 from this tool

Manually

Installing the Windows Automated Installation Kit for Windows

First we'll need to install the Windows Automated Installation Kit (Win AIK) on your technician machine

- Win 7 - <http://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=5753>
- Win 8 - <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=30652>
- Win 8.1 - <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=39982>
- Win 10 - <https://developer.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/hardware/windows-assessment-deployment-kit>





Manually Create Answer File

Now we will Launch Windows System Image Manager and begin creating our answer file.

Insert your Windows 7 DVD into your machine. In Windows System Image Manager, right click on "Select a Windows image or catalog file" under Windows Image and click "Select Windows image" . Navigate to the Source directory in the Windows 7 DVD, and highlight "install.

wim" and click open.

Right click on "Create or open an answer file" under Answer File and click "New Answer File..."

First we will configure the language settings to disable this screen:

In the Windows Image pane, select the component `x86_Microsoft-Windows-International-Core_6.1.7601.17514_neutral`, right-click and choose Add Setting to Pass 7 `oobeSystem`.



More info from Microsoft: <https://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc766400%28v=ws.10%29.aspx>

Using the Answer File Properties and Settings panes and configure the following settings:

```
InputLocale = en-US  
SystemLocale = en-US  
UILanguage = en-US  
UserLocale = en-US
```

Next we will configure a local account and the computer name to disable these screens during setup:

In the Windows Image pane, select the component `x86_Microsoft-Windows-Shell-Setup_6.1.7601.17514_neutral`, right-click on `UserAccounts/LocalAccounts/LocalAccount` and choose `Add Setting to Pass 7 oobeSystem`.



More info from Microsoft: <https://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc766279%28v=ws.10%29.aspx>

Using the Answer File Properties and Settings panes, configure the following settings:

- **Description**
- **DisplayName**
- **Group**
- **Name**
- **Password**

In the Windows Image pane, select the component `x86_Microsoft-Windows-Shell-Setup_6.1.7601.17514_neutral`, right-click and choose Add Setting to Pass 4 specialize.



More info from Microsoft: <https://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc766375%28v=ws.10%29.aspx>

Using the Answer File Properties and Settings panes, configure the following settings:

- **ComputerName**
- **ProductKey** (If necessary)
- **TimeZone** (for Time Zone options go to: <https://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc749073%28WS.10%29.aspx>)

Now we will configure settings to bypass the EULA, Protect Computer dialog, and Computer location dialogs screens:

In the Windows Image pane, select the component `x86_Microsoft-Windows-Shell-Setup_6.1.7601.17514_neutral`, right-click on OOBE and choose Add Setting to Pass 7 `oobeSystem`.



More info from Microsoft: <https://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc766165%28v=ws.10%29.aspx>

Using the Answer File Properties and Settings panes, configure the following settings:

- **HideEULAPage**
- **HideWirelessSetupInOOBE** (If applicable)
- **NetworkLocation**
- **ProtectYourPC**



for Values see: <https://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc749278%28v=ws.10%29.aspx>

All done! Save your answer file and you are ready to Sysprep your master image.

Check Disk

Please make sure that before you Sysprep your Image, that you check the disk. A reboot will be required.

```
chkdsk /R  
shutdown -r -t 0
```

Use a administrator command prompt to run the commands and reboot

System Prepare with Sysprep

Once **chkdsk** has completed and the machine is back in Windows, run a command prompt as administrator and type the following command to Sysprep your machine:

```
C:\Windows\System32\Sysprep\sysprep.exe /generalize /oobe /shutdown /unattend:PATH TO SYSPREP ANSWER FILE XML
```


Sysprep will prepare the machine to be copied and shutdown.

You are now ready to upload your Master Image to the FileWave Imaging Appliance.



To continue this workflow and capture this as a Master Image see... [Windows Network Imaging - PXE](#)