

Article: Create executable wrappers with IExpress Date: 28/02/2012 Posted by: HeelpBook Staff Source: Link Permalink: Link

## WINDOWS XP/VISTA/SEVEN – CREATE EXECUTABLE WRAPPERS WITH IEXPRESS

You can turn scripts into redistributable executable files with existing software in **Windows Vista** and **Windows XP**. **Windows Vista** and **Windows XP** both have a rarely used tool known as <u>*IExpress*</u>.

The tool allows you to wrap an executable file around your scripts so that you can distribute any script as an **.exe** rather than distributing a "<u>raw</u>" script file **(.bat, .vbs, etc.)**. This eliminates the need of explaining to <u>non-technical users</u> how to execute scripts through the **Command Prompt**.

This is an extremely useful tool for turning **Visual Basic** script files and other **non-executable scripts** into <u>one-click executables</u>. If you would like to learn more information about **IExpress**, you can read the <u>documentation at Microsoft TechNet</u>.

Before you begin the installation process, you will need two files. The first file is the script you would like to bundle into the executable. The second script must be the batch file that you use to execute your script. For example: if your script is a visual basic script (.vbs) you need a batch file (.bat) that will run your script.

The following are two simple examples of scripts to help drive home the point (*hello.vbs echo "hello"*):

runhello.bat
cscript hello.vbs

If you are unfamiliar with **Visual Basic** scripts and batch script syntax the "**cscript**" command shown above is needed to execute the *hello.vbs* file. Launch **IExpress** in Windows Vista by clicking the <u>Start</u> button and typing *iexpress*.

In Windows XP, launch <u>IExpress</u> by going to Start >> Run and typing *iexpress*.

Start a new project by selecting Create new Self Extraction Directive file and click Next.



• Select Extract files and run an installation command and click Next.



Package purpose
Select final result of the package.
Extract files and run an installation command
C Extract files only
Create compressed files only (ActiveX Installs)
- Description
Files will be expanded to a temporary folder. The files will then be used by the specified installation program.

• Type a name for your executable and click **Next**.

Package title Type the title of your package in the following box. This title will appear on all dialog boxes that the user sees.
The name of your file
< Back Next > Cancel

You will be asked whether you want to prompt the user to confirm the installation of their package. For the purpose of this tutorial click **No prompt** and then click **Next**.

If you wanted to prompt a user with a message you could choose "**Prompt user with**" and enter your message in the box below the prompt.



Confirmation prompt If you want to confirm that the user wants to install your package, select Prompt User With and type the prompt Otherwise, select No Prompt. No prompt. Prompt user with:

• Similarly, you will be prompted whether or not you would like to display a license agreement. For the purpose of this tutorial choose Do not display a license and click **Next**.

-	License agreement If you want to display a License Agreement before allowing an installation, select Display a License and choose the License file; otherwise, select Do Not Display a License.
	Do not display a license.     Display a license:
	Browse
	< Back Next > Cancel

• On the Packaged files screen choose **Add** and be sure to add your script and your executable script (*hello.vbs and runhello.bat*) and click **Next**.



Packaged files Create a list of files that you want in your compressed package.	
Filename	Path
hello.vbs runhello.bat	C:\Users\asdf\Desktop\ C:\Users\asdf\Desktop\
Add	Remove

• Your executable script should now be visible in the "Install Program" drop down. Select the batch file and leave the "Post Install Command" as "<None>" and click Next.

Install Program to Launch
Select the programs or INF files to launch from the package. A custom command can also be created below
Install Tunhello bat
The below comand will be run after the install has completed.
Post Install Command

• Leave the original selection as **Default** (*recommended*) and click **Next**.



Show window
Dite if white if
Select how your installation program's window will be displayed.
Default (recommended)
C Hidden
C Minimized
C Maximized
(Back Next ) Cano

Leave the <u>Finished message</u> selection as No message. Similar to the confirmation prompt dialog (shown above), if you wanted to have a display message after your script runs, you could choose "Display message" and enter the message into the box, click Next.

Finished message If you want to display a message to the user after installation is complete, select Display Message and type the message; otherwise, select No Message. No message. Display message:
< Back Next > Cancel

• On the Package Name and Options dialog, click Browse.



	Package Name and Options
	Enter the target path and filename for your package. This is the file that will get downloaded and executed by the user.
	Browse
	Options
	Hide File Extracting Progress Animation from User
	☐ Store files using Long File Name inside Package
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• Enter a file name and location and click **Save** and then click **Next** on the **Package Name and Options** dialog shown above.

🕗 - 💻 Deskt	op 🕨	- 49 Search	
File name:	hello		8
Save as type:	Executable Files (*.exe)		Č.
Browse Folders		Sava	Cancel

• On the **Configure** restart dialog, choose <u>**Only restart if needed</u>** and click **Next**.</u>

Configure restart
Select how you want the system to restart at the end of your installation program. No restart Always restart Only restart if needed
Do not prompt user before restarting
Rack Next Cancel

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• You can save your **IExpress** configuration in case you would like to come back and edit it later. For the purpose of this tutorial choose **Don't save** and click **Next**.

Save Self Extraction Directive
If you would like to save this information for later use, select Save Self Extraction Directive (SED) file; otherwise select Don't save. If you choose to save this information, you can modify it later and recreate your package, without re-entering all the previous information.
C Save Self Extraction Directive (SED) file:
C:\Users\asdf\Desktop\hello.SED Browse
Don't save.
< Back Next > Cancel

• All of your configuration is complete and you are now ready to create the executable. Click **Next** to begin this process.

Create package
You are now ready to create your package. Click Next to start the process. It can take several minutes to finish.

• The executable will now be created and click Finish to close the IExpress Wizard.



Create package Your package has been created. Click Finish when you are ready to quit.
Status:
Bytes after: 50 After/Before: 172.41% compression Time: 0.08 seconds (0 hr 0 min 0.08 se Throughput: 0.36 Kb/second
Creating the package
< +
Rack Brief Cancel

## **Summary**

Here is what you've learned to do:

- Create simple visual basic and batch scripts.
- Use IExpress Wizard to create executable wrappers for your scripts.

