Knowledge Base

How to Install Additional Files During Automated System Recovery

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The information in this article applies to:

• Microsoft Windows XP Professional

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SUMMARY

This article describes how to install additional files when you use the Automated System Recovery (ASR) feature. Specifically, this article describes how to edit the [**InstallFiles**] section of the Asr.sif file to specify the files and device drivers that are needed during the graphical user interface-mode (GUI-mode) ASR Setup that are not included on the Windows XP CD-ROM.

MORE INFORMATION

When you use ASR, you may need to copy additional third-party files to the target computer during the Text-mode portion of ASR. Such files may include programs that run under GUI-mode ASR and the device drivers that they need.

The [InstallFiles] section of the Asr.sif file contains the records that identify the device drivers and files and the source and destination to which they are to be copied. Programs may omit the section entirely when they want to specify that the device driver files are not to be copied to the computer. Similarly, if the section is present, but it does not contain any records, the drivers are not copied.

The [InstallFiles] section is not required, for example, if the device drivers that are required by the provider program had been installed during a normal installation of Windows XP. Another possibility may be that the recovery program implemented a vendor-specific file copy and installation procedure that did not need to use the semantics that had been provided by the recovery device records.

A valid [InstallFiles] section is required during phase I (one) if ASR is to copy the driver files to a hard disk.

NOTE: During phase II (two), ASR does not access the [InstallFiles] section.

The [InstallFiles] section must use the following syntax:

[InstallFiles]

[Installfile-Key]=[System-Key],[Source-Media-Label], [Source-File-Path], [Destination-File-Path], [Vendor-Name], [Flags]

The following list is an explanation of the keys that are used in the [InstallFiles] section:

• InstallFile-Key - Required

This value is an integer that is greater than or equal to one. This key must be unique from all other keys in the [InstallFiles] section. Programs that are adding entries to the InstallFiles section must not generate the [Installfile-Key], or the equal (=) sign.

• System Key - Required

The [System Key] is an index into the **System** section. This value identifies which system is being restored and it must be an integer that is greater than or equal to one.

• Source-Media-Label - Required

The [Source-Media-Label] is used to prompt the user to insert the media if the required media is not present in the [Source-Device] path.

Source-Device - Required

The [Source-Device] must be a physical device name of the source device because the drive letters on the target computer are not guaranteed to be the same as that on the original computer when the files in this section are copied. The following strings refer to common installation media:

Floppy: For the first floppy disk drive on the computer (\Device\Floppy0) Cdrom: For the first CD-ROM drive on the computer (\Device\CdRom0) Setupsource: For the path to the device that contains the Setup files

For all other devices, the full physical device path must be used.

• Source-File-Path - Required

This string identifies the full path name of the file to be copied, which is relative to the root folder on the source media. For example, if the Driver.sys file that is stored in the "I386" subfolder on a CD-ROM needs to be copied, the source-file-path for it is: "I386\Driver.sys". This string must not begin with a backslash (\) character.

Destination-File-Path - Required

This string identifies the path and filename to which the source file must be copied. Because the only volumes that are present at this time are the boot and system volumes, the destination must be in one of these volumes. Programs may use the following strings to refer to these folders:

%SystemRoot%: For the Windows installation folder Temp: For a temporary folder

Unless there is a specific need to install to the Windows (%SystemRoot%) folder, programs must normally use the *Temp* folder.

For example, if the Driver.sys file is copied to the System32 subfolder of the target computer in the Windows installation folder, the [Destination-File-Path] is: "%SystemRoot%\System32\Driver.sys".

Vendor-Name - Required

This string is displayed by Text-mode Setup while prompting for the specified file, if needed.

• Flags - Required

The [Flags] is a combination of one or more of the following values that enables the program to customize the restore-time behavior:

0x00000001 - Prompt For Files Always - This flag causes ASR to always prompt the user for the media before any attempts are made to copy the file. This flag can be used to ensure that the file that is being copied is from the correct media, especially if the file has a common name (such as, Setup.exe) that may exist on some other media that is on the drive. This flag gives the user a chance to ensure that the correct source media is present before ASR copies the file to the target computer.

0x00000006 - Prompt for Required Files - This flag indicates that this file is critical for the ASR process. ASR does not proceed unless this file is copied. This flag must only be set for the necessary files without which ASR cannot succeed because the user cannot perform a successful recovery unless all of these files are present.

0x00000010 - Overwrite if File Already Exists - Specifies if the file that is being copied must overwrite the file at the target destination if it already exists. This flag is ignored if the flag 0x00000001 is set.

0x00000020 - Prompt if File Already Exists - If this flag is set, the user is prompted if the file that is being copied already exists at the target location.

The following example displays a typical [**InstallFiles**] section with two files that need to be copied to the target computer if the computer that is identified by the "1" key in the **System** section is being restored:

[Install Files]

1=1,"Charlotte Backup Disk 1","Floppy","%Systemroot%\System32\Drivers\Driver.sys","Charlotte Corp", 0x00000001

2=1,"Microsoft Application Setup Disk 1:,"Cdrom","I386\Appsetup.exe","Temp\Appsetup.exe","Microsoft Corp",0x00000001

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