Knowledge Base

Command-Line Switches for the Microsoft Windows Installer Tool

PSS ID Number: 227091

Article Last Modified on 11/13/2003

The information in this article applies to:

- Microsoft Windows 2000 Server
- Microsoft Windows 2000 Advanced Server
- Microsoft Windows 2000 Professional

This article was previously published under Q227091
For a Microsoft Windows XP version of this article, see 314881.

SUMMARY

The Windows Installer executable program that interprets packages and installs products is Msiexec.exe. This article lists the command-line switches for this program. You cannot run the Msiexec.exe program without specifying at least one switch.

MORE INFORMATION

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Switch   Parameters                                Description
----------------------------------------------------------------
/i       Package|ProductCode                       Installs or configures a
                                                   product.

/f       [p|o|e|d|c|a|u|m|s|v]Package|ProductCode  Repairs a product.

                                                   p - Reinstalls a
                                                   product only if a
                                                   file is missing.

                                                   o - Reinstalls a
                                                   product if a file
                                                   is missing or if an
                                                   older version of a file
                                                   is installed.

                                                   e - Reinstalls a
                                                   product if a file
                                                   is missing or an equal
                                                   or older version of a
                                                   file is installed.

                                                   d - Reinstalls a
                                                   product if a file
                                                   is missing or a
                                                   different
                                                   version of a file is
                                                   installed.

                                                   c - Reinstalls a
                                                   product if a file
                                                   is missing or the stored
                                                   checksum value does not
                                                   match the calculated
                                                   value.

                                                   a - Forces all files to
                                                   be reinstalled.

                                                   u - Rewrites all
                                                   required user-
                                                   specific registry
                                                   entries.

                                                   m - Rewrites all
                                                   required
                                                   computer-specific
                                                   registry entries.

                                                   s - Overwrites all
                                                   existing shortcuts.

                                                   v - Runs from the source
                                                   file and re-caches the
                                                   local package.

/a      Package                                    Administrative
                                                   installation option.
                                                   Installs a product on
                                                   the network.

/x      Package|ProductCode                        Uninstalls a product.

/j      [u|m]Package                               Advertises a product.
        or [u|m]Package /t Transform List          The property values used
        or[u|m]Package /g LanguageID               on the command line are
                                                   ignored.
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		u - Advertises a product to the current user.
		m - Advertises a product to all users.
		g - Language ID.
		t - Applies a transform list to an advertised package.
/l	[i|w|e|a|r|u|c|m|p|v|+|!]Logfile	Specifies the log file path and indicates the flags to be logged.
		i - Status messages.
		w - Non-fatal warnings.
		e - All error messages.
		a - Startup of actions.
		r - Action-specific records
		u - User requests.
		c - Initial User Interface (UI) parameters
		m - Out-of-memory.
		p - Terminal properties.
		v - Verbose output.
		+ - Appends to the existing file.
		! - Clears each line in the log file.
		"*" - Wildcard. Logs all information, but the use of the v option is not included. To include the v option, type "/l*v."
/p	Patch/Package	Applies a patch. To apply a patch to an installed Administrator image, type the following options:
		/p [PatchPackage] /a [Package]
/q	n|b|r|f	Sets the UI level.
		q , qn - No UI.
		qb - Basic UI.
		qr - Reduced UI. A modal dialog box is displayed at the end of the installation.
		qf - Full UI. A modal dialog box is displayed at the end of the installation.
		qn+ - No UI. However, a modal dialog box is displayed at the end of the installation.
		qb+ - Basic UI. A modal dialog box is displayed at the end of the installation. If you cancel the installation, a modal dialog box is not displayed.
		qb- - Basic UI with no modal dialog boxes. The "/qb+-" switch is not a supported UI

```
                                        level.
/y   module                             Calls the system
                                        Application Programming
                                        Interface (API)
                                        DllRegisterServer, which
                                        registers modules that
                                        are typed on the
                                        command line (for
                                        example, "msiexec /y
                                        my_file.dll").

                                        This option is only used
                                        for registry information
                                        that cannot be added
                                        using the registry
                                        tables of the .msi file.

/z   module                             Calls the system API
                                        DllUnRegisterServer,
                                        to unregister modules
                                        that are typed on the
                                        command line (for
                                        example, "msiexec /z
                                        my_file.dll").

                                        This option is only used
                                        for registry information
                                        that cannot be removed
                                        using the registry
                                        tables of the .msi file.
```

REFERENCES

For more information and examples, please see the "Command Line Options" topic in Windows Installer Help, or visit the following Microsoft Web site:

http://msdn.microsoft.com/library/default.asp?url=/library/en-us/msi/setup/command_line_options.asp

Keywords: kbinfo KB227091
Technology: kbwin2000AdvServ kbwin2000AdvServSearch kbwin2000Pro kbwin2000ProSearch kbwin2000Search kbwin2000Serv kbwin2000ServSearch kbWinAdvServSearch

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