

Unattended Installation of Windows Operating Systems on Dell PowerEdge Servers by Using Lifecycle Controller

This Dell Technical White Paper describes the capabilities of Lifecycle Controller to install an operating system in Manual and unattended mode (by using an OS configuration file) on the Dell PowerEdge servers.

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Executive Summary

Although we have many methods to install an operating system (OS) using embedded management software such as Lifecycle Controller (GUI), Remote Enablement using WS-Man, Systems Build and Update Utility, and default manual installation, the method of installing an OS requires manual intervention at some stage during deployment. Traditional or manual OS deployment by using Lifecycle Controller requires you to be present throughout the OS installation process. Lifecycle Controller (release 1.3 and later) provides an infrastructure for OS Deployment loaders to consume the OS configurations file for installation and continue OS deployment with minimal manual intervention.

This white paper aims to provide detailed information about the Unattended OS deployment feature available in Lifecycle Controller, such as WS-Man and RACADM.



Introduction

The OS deployment feature in Lifecycle Controller enables you to install an OS and the relevant drivers by completing few easy tasks. Using the **OS Deployment** page, you can deploy:

- Dell-supported OS (the Dell-supported drivers are automatically installed)
- Customized OS (the Dell-supported drivers are automatically installed)
- Any other OS (necessary drivers must be manually installed)

If a RAID is not already configured then the **OS Deployment** wizard in Lifecycle controller enables you to configure RAID before installing an OS.

Windows System Image Manager (WSIM) allows you to create OS configuration (.xml answer) files. The unattended installation feature of Lifecycle Controller consumes OS configuration or 'answer' file and makes the answer file available to OS loader, where, minimal user input (on the basis of OS configuration file) is required during the OS installation process.

Note: Currently, Lifecycle Controller version 1.4 limits this support only to Windows OSs for unattended installation.



Unattended OS Installation Using Lifecycle Controller— Process Flow chart

1





Unattended Installation of Operating System

Before performing unattended OS installation, make sure that the following prerequisites are met:

- OS configurations file (also known as unattended file or .xml answer file) is created using Windows System Image Manager (WSIM) or similar tools provided by Windows. To create Operating system configurations file, refer to the Annexure section.
- OS configurations file is copied to a USB drive or Network share (CIFS/ NFS) for Lifecycle Controller to import.
- Optical DVD drive with OS media is connected to the server, or a virtual disk (.ISO image) is attached to the server (For more information, see the Attaching Virtual Media section).
- Software RAID controller is enabled or PERC controller is installed, and a minimum number of hard disk drives (HDDs) are available for creating a virtual disk. If the RAID is not already configured then the OS Deployment wizard in Lifecycle controller enables you to configure RAID before installing an OS.

To install an OS using the Unattended Install mode:

Step 1: During power-on-self-test (POST), start Lifecycle Controller by pressing <F10>.

Step 2: After Lifecycle Controller is started, in the navigation menu, click OS Deployment.

Lifecycle Controller	Unified Server Configurator Help About Exit	
Home Lifecycle Log	OS Deployment	
Firmware Update Hardware Configuration OS Deployment	Use the Operating System (OS) Deployment page to launch a wizard that guides a user through the deployment process. Deploy OS	
Platform Restore Hardware Diagnostics Settings		
System Setup		
PowerEdge R720xd Service Tag : 80S7NW1		



Step 3: In the working pane, click Deploy OS.

OS deployment logic verifies whether or not an Optical DVD drive is connected to the server or a virtual DVD drive is attached to the server. Also, the presence of a virtual disk is checked. It is recommended that you have the necessary hard disk drives in the system.

Lifecycle Controller	Unified Server Configurator H	elp About Exit
Home	OS Deployment	
Lifecycle Log		
Firmware Update	Use the Operating System (OS) Deployment page to launch a wizard that guides a user through deployment process	1 the
Hardware Configuration		
OS Deployment	Information	
Platform Restore	OS Deployment	
Hardware Diagnostics	Operation is in progress. Please wait.	
Settings		
System Setup		
PowerEdge R720xd Service Tag: 80S7NW1		





Step 4: After clicking **Deploy OS**, if an optical DVD drive is connected or a virtual DVD is attached and virtual disk is already present, then the **Step 1 of 6**: **Select Deployment Path** page is displayed. If a virtual disk is already configured, select **Go Directly to OS Deployment**, and then click **Next**. Alternatively, select **Configure RAID First** and click **Next** to configure RAID, after which continue installing an OS. For more information, see the "Configuring RAID" section in the white paper.

Select Deployment path	OS Deployment: Deploy OS
Select an Operating System	
Select Installation Mode	Step 1 of 6: Select Deployment path
Select Boot Mode	Select OS Deployment Path
Insert OS Media	Configure RAD First
Reboot the System	 Go Directly to OS Deployment.



Select Deployment path 🖌 🗸	OS Deployment: Deploy OS	
Select an Operating System	Step 2 of 6: Select an Operating System	
Select Boot Mode	Available Operating Systems	
insert OS Media	Microsoft Windows Server 2012	•
Reboot the System	 Microsoft Windows Server 2008 x64 with SP2 Microsoft Windows Server 2008 R2 with SP1 Microsoft Windows Small Business Server 2011 Red Hat Enterprise Linux 5.9 x86 Red Hat Enterprise Linux 5.9 x64 Red Hat Enterprise Linux 6.4 x64 SuSE Enterprise Linux 10 SP4 x64 SuSE Enterprise Linux 11 SP2 x64 VMware ESXi 5.0 U2 HDD VMware ESXi 5.1 U1 HDD Xen Server 6.1 	•
PowerEdge R720xd	Cancel Back	Next

Step 5: Lifecycle Controlle displays a list of Dell-supported OSs.



Step 6: Select the OS to be installed and click Next.

Note:

- a) The list of Dell-supported OS changes on the basis of driver packs updated on the system. To update to a latest driver pack, see the Updating Driver Pack section.
- b) For Citrix and ESXi operating systems, it is recommended to use Dell-customized OS images.
- c) The software RAID controller supports the installation of only Windows OSs.

Lifecycle Controller	Unified Server Configurator	Help About Exit
Select Deployment path	OS Deployment: Deploy OS	
Select an Operating System		
Select Installation Mode	Step 2 of 6: Select an Operating System	
Select Boot Mode	Available Operating Systems	
Insert OS Media	Microsoft Windows Server 2012	
Reboot the System	 Microsoft Windows Server 2012 R2 Microsoft Windows Server 2008 x86 with SP2 Microsoft Windows Server 2008 R2 with SP2 Microsoft Windows Server 2008 R2 with SP1 Red Hat Enterprise Linux 5.9 x86 Red Hat Enterprise Linux 5.9 x64 Red Hat Enterprise Linux 6.4 x64 SuSE Enterprise Linux 11 SP3 x64 VMware ESXi 5.1U1 VMware ESXi 5.5 Xen Server 6.2 Any Other Operating System 	
PowerEdge R720xd Service Tag : 80S7NW1	Cancel	Back Next

Step 7: After clicking Next the OS drivers for the selected OS will get copied to a temporary drive from which the OS installer picks up the driver for auto installation. This process will take few minutes to complete based on the number of drivers and their size.



Select Deployment path 🛛 🗸	OS Deployment: Deploy OS	
Select an Operating System		
elect Installation Mode	Step 2 of 6: Select an Operating System	
elect Boot Mode	Available Operating Systems	
sert OS Media	Information	-
	Preparing drivers for the selected operating system. This operation will take less than 5 minutes.	
	O VMware ESXi 5.0 U2 HDD O VMware ESXi 5.1 U1 HDD O Xen Server 6.1	

Step 8: On the **Step 3 of 6: Select Installation Mode** page, select one of the supported installation modes for the selected OS Installation.

Note:

- a) Currently, Lifecycle Controller is limited to supporting unattended OS installation on Windows-based operating systems. If a Windows OS is selected for OS deployment, the **Unattended Install** option will be available.
- b) If you click Manual Install, and then click Next, the Step 4 of 6: Select Boot Mode page is displayed. Alternatively, if Unattended install is selected, the Step 3a of 6: Select installation mode page is displayed, where Lifecycle Controller provides option for importing OS configuration file from a USB drive or network share.



Step 9: On the **Step 3a of 6: Select Installation Mode** page, select either a USB drive or network share to import the OS configuration file, and then click **Next**.

Prerequisite:

- a) Lifecycle Controller will accept only an OS configuration file named "autounattend.xml".
- b) The OS configurations file must be created only by using Windows System Image Manager (WSIM) or similar tools provided by Microsoft. To create an OS configurations file, refer to Annexure.
- c) The OS configuration file will be copied from a USB or network share (CIFS or NFS) by Lifecycle Controller —based on the source you have selected.

Lifecycle Controller	Unified Server Configurator		1	Help About Exit
Select Deployment path 🗸 Select an Operating System 🗸	OS Deployment: Deploy	os		
Select Installation Mode	Step 3a of 6: Select Install	ation Mode		
Select Boot Mode	Select and enter the location to impor	t the operating system configuratio	n file.	
Reboot the System	Select Device File Path O Network Share © CIFS O NFS Share Name Domain and User Name Password File Path Test Network Connection	DELL (Virtual Floppy) Autounattend.xml		
PowerEdge R720xd Service Tag: 80S7NW1		Can	cel Back	Next

Note: After you click Next, a message is displayed as shown in the sample screen shot here.





Note:

a. If an incorrect file path is entered, or if file does not exist at the specified location, an error message will be displayed.



b. If an invalid OS configuration file is detected, a warning message will be displayed. Make sure the OS configuration file is valid and named as "autounattend.xml".

Wa	rning
	Unable to validate operating system
-	The configuration file is corrupted or is not valid. Retry with a valid operating system configuration file.
	ок



Step 10: On the **Step 4 of 6**: **Select Boot Mode** page, Lifecycle Controller displays two Boot modes—UEFI and BIOS. Select an appropriate boot mode option and click **Next**.

NOTE: If a selected operating system does not support UEFI mode, then UEFI option is grayed out.

elect Deployment path	OS Deployment: Deploy OS		
elect an Operating System 🗸			
elect Installation Mode 🛛 🗸	Step 4 of 6: Select Boot Mode		
elect Boot Mode	Select one of the supported boot modes for installing the selected operating system.		
ert OS Media	o UEFI ⊛ BIOS		
eboot the System			



Lifecycle Controller	Unified Server Configurator		Hel	o About Exit
Select Deployment path	OS Deployment: Deploy OS			
Select an Operating System	Step 5 of 6: Insert OS Media			
Select Boot Mode	Insert the following media, then click Next:			
Insert OS Media	Microsoft Windows Server 2012			
Reboot the System				
PowerEdge R720xd Service Tag : 80S7NW/1	4	Cancel	Back	Next

Step 11: On the Insert OS Media page, insert the operating system media, and then click Next.



Lifecycle Controller	Unified Server Configurator	Help About Exit
Select Deployment path 🗸 Select an Operating System 🗸	OS Deployment: Deploy OS	
Select Installation Mode	Step 5 of 6: Insert OS Media	
Select Boot Mode	Insert the following media, then click Next:	
Insert OS Media	Information	
Reboot the System	Validating the Operating System media. This will take less than 2 minutes.	
PowerEdge R720xd	Cancel	Back Next

Note: If the inserted media is not matching with the OS you have selected, a message is displayed as shown in the screen shot here.

Lifecycle Controller	Unified Server Configurator	Help About Exit
Select Deployment path	OS Deployment: Deploy OS	
Select Installation Mode	Step 5 of 6: Insert OS Media	
Select Boot Mode	Message	
Reboot the System	OS Media Validation The selected media doesn't match the standard media verification of the OS. Click Yes to continue OS deployment with inserted media. Click No to insert a new media and retry. Microsoft Windows Server 2012 Yes No	
PowerEdge R720xd Service Tag : 80S7NW1	Cancel	ack Next



a) If media is not present then a message is displayed as given in the screen shot here.





Step 12: On the **Reboot the System** page, click **Finish** to begin the unattended OS installation process. This process will begin with a server reboot. Hereafter, your input is not required in case if you have selected unattended OS installation. However, if you have selected the manual installation method, you will be prompted by the OS installer for respective inputs. Follow the on-screen instructions to complete the OS installation.

Select Deployment path	~	OS Deployment: Deploy OS	
Select an Operating System Select Installation Mode	~	Step 6 of 6: Reboot the System	
Select Boot Mode	~	1. Keep the following media in the system:	
isert OS Media	~	Microsoft Windows Server 2012	
Reboot the System		3. Click Finish to continue with the installation.	
		The system reboots to start the operating system installation. After reboot, you may be prompte Press Any Key" to boot to the operating system media and start installation. If a key is not press system bypasses the installation.	ed to sed, the





3 Supported Operating Systems

Lifecycle Controller supports several OSs and list of the supported OSs are updated in every release of Lifecycle Controller. To get the latest supported OS list, update the Lifecycle Controller OS driver packs using the **Firmware Update** feature of Lifecycle Controller.

When installing an OS using Lifecycle Controller, the OS Deployment page extracts OS drivers of the selected OS from driver pack and copies them to a temporary folder location on the server. OS loader gets the drivers from this temporary location while installing the OS. This temporary location is deleted:

- After an 18-hour period
- When Lifecycle Controller is started
- When an AC power cycle is performed

Note: Lifecycle Controller has embedded drivers that are factory-installed. To get the latest supported OS list or latest Lifecycle Controller OS driver packs, update the latest Lifecycle Controller OS driver packs using the Firmware Update feature of Lifecycle Controller. The latest Lifecycle Controller driver packs are available on **support.dell.com**.

3.1 Configuring RAID

To configure a RAID:

- 1. In the left pane of Lifecycle Controller, click OS Deployment.
- 2. Click Deploy OS.
- 3. Select the **Configure RAID First** option and click **Next**. The RAID Configuration page is launched and displays the available storage controllers for configuration.
- 4. Select a storage controller and click **Next**. The supported RAID levels are displayed on the basis of hard drives available and the capability of the selected RAID controller.
- 5. Select the appropriate RAID level, click **Next** to complete RAID configuration wizard. After the RAID configuration is applied to the hard disk drives, The OS list page (**Step 2 of 6: Select an Operating System**) is displayed after the RAID is created. For more information about RAID configuration, see *Lifecycle Controller User's Guide* available at dell.com/support/manuals.

3.2 Updating Driver Pack

To update a driver pack:

1. On Lifecycle Controller main page, click **Settings**. Click **Network Settings**. Set appropriate network properties and click **Finish**. To get the latest driver packs, update the Lifecycle Controller OS driver packs using the Firmware Update feature of Lifecycle Controller. The latest driver packs are available on **support.dell.com**.

For more information about updating a driver pack, see *Lifecycle Controller User's Guide* available at support.dell.com/support/manuals, or the white paper *Lifecycle Controller Platform Update in Dell PowerEdge 12th Generation Servers*.



3.3 Selecting an Operating System not Available in the List

To install an operating system that is not available in the list:

- 1. Start Lifecycle Controller. On the Step 2 of 5: Select an Operating System page, select the option Any Other Operating System and click Next.
- 2. Provide the required drivers for installing an OS, because the drivers are not extracted from the embedded driver pack.
- 3. Insert the OS installation media, and then click **Next**.

NOTE: Lifecycle Controller does not validate the media if **Any Other Operating System** option is selected.

4. Click Finish to reboot the system.

3.4 Attaching Virtual Media

To attach a virtual media:

- 1. Start virtual console from iDRAC GUI and attach the virtual media.
- 2. To add an ISO image, click **Add Image**, and then select the image file from the management station. The ISO image is displayed as an available device.
- 3. To add a folder that has the ISO image, click Add Folder as Image.

Note: For more information about attaching a virtual media, see the *iDRAC User's Guide* available at dell.com/support/manuals.

3.5 Conclusion

Using the unattended OS deployment feature in Lifecycle Controller allows you to install an OS with minimal user input. This feature reduces the number of errors that could be introduced during an OS installation process. This feature does not require you to be present during an OS installation process.



Annexure

Windows System Image Manager (WSIM) is a tool provided by Microsoft for creating and editing OS configuration files used in the OS deployment. Windows System Image Manager creates and manages OS configuration files (unattended files or .xml answer files) in a graphical user interface (GUI). OS configuration files are XML-based files that are used during Windows setup to configure and customize the default Windows installation.

For example, you can use WSIM to create an answer file which partitions and formats a hard disk drive before installing Windows. You can use WSIM to change the default setting for the Internet Explorer home page. Finally, you can use WSIM to configure Windows to boot to Audit mode after the OS installation.

Note: WSIM is a Windows-provided tool and following description of WSIM is derived from the information available on the internet. Details here give one of the use-cases to create an OS configurations files (unattended files or .xml answer files) and will not be covering all the configuration parameters. Information provided in this white paper may change on the basis of changes made by Microsoft on the application. For more information about this application, go to the Microsoft site http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/hh824929.aspx.



4 Creating an Answer File Using Windows System Image Manager (WSIM)

WSIM can be used to create an operating system configuration file. Windows Automated Installation Kit (AIK) can be downloaded from the Microsoft Download Center.

As shown in the sample screen shot here, there are mainly five panes in Windows SIM:

- 1. Distribution share
- 2. Windows image
- 3. Answer file
- 4. Properties
- 5. Messages





🗄 Windows System Image Manager							
Eile <u>E</u> dit <u>I</u> nsert <u>I</u> ools <u>H</u> elp							
Distribution Share	Answer File	Properties					
Windows Image — Select a Windows image or catalog file		No available properties					
	XML (0) Validation (0) Configuration Set (0)						
	Description	Location					

When WSIM is started for the first time, the panes will be blank.



4.1 Adding Windows Image to WSIM

Before using WSIM, copy the contents of a Windows DVD to a local hard disk drive (for example, c:\source\w2k8dvd). Now, a local copy of a DVD is available, that can be used to point install.wim in windows image pane.

Step 1: In the Windows Image pane, right-click Select a Windows Image or Install file, and then click Select Windows Image.

🛾 Windows System Image Manager									
File Edit Insert Tools Help									
। 🖹 🇀 🖻 🔲 🔏 🐁 📋 🗡 🔎 🞯 🎯 🌘									
Distribution Share	Answer File	Properties							
····· Select a Distribution Share	···· Create or open an answer file								
Windows Image		No available properties							
Select Windows Imag	je								
Close Windows Imag	e								
	Messages								
	XML (0) Validation (0) Configuration Set (0)								
	Description	Location							



Step 2: Browse to the local folder that contains a copy of your Windows DVD. In the source directory, select the **install.wim** file, and then click.

Select a Windo	ows Image		23
Look in:	🔋 sources 👻	G 🦻 📂 🛄 -	
æ	Name	Date modified	Type 🖍
Recent Places	퉬 inf 🐌 ja-jp	6/20/2013 3:12 PM 6/20/2013 3:12 PM	File fol File fol
	i ko-kr migration	6/20/2013 3:12 PM 6/20/2013 3:12 PM	File fol File fol
Desktop	replacementmanifests sxs	6/20/2013 3:12 PM 6/20/2013 3:14 PM	File fol File fol
	🕌 vista	6/20/2013 3:14 PM 6/20/2013 3:14 PM	File fol File fol
Libraries	boot.wim install.wim install.Windows Server & Bate SERVERSTAN	6/6/2012 10:13 PM	WIM F
	Install_Windows Server's Beta SERVERSTAN	6/6/2013 10:09 Pivi	CLO FI ↓
Vamsi_Annabat tula WN7-95K	File name: install.wim	-	Open
	Files of type: Windows image or catalog files(*.win	n, *.clg) ▼ 0	Cancel

Step 3: Clicking **Open** in the Select a Windows Image dialog box prompts you to select an Image file. For example, **Windows Server 8 Beta SERVERSTANDARD**.

Select an Image	23
Select an image in the Windows image file:	
Windows Server 8 Beta SERVERSTANDARDCORE Windows Server 8 Beta SERVERSTANDARD Windows Server 8 Beta SERVERDATACENTERCORE Windows Server 8 Beta SERVERDATACENTER	
(You must be an administrator of the local machine to create catalogs.)
ОК	Cancel



Step 4: Click **OK**. When you are prompted to create a Catalog file, click **Yes**. The catalog file contains descriptions about the components and packages the image contains. Therefore, it takes a few minutes to generate a catalog file. After the catalog file is created, Windows Image lists some new nodes called **Components** and **Packages**.



4.2 Creating New Answer File or OS Configuration File

Step 1: After Windows Image is loaded, an .xml answer file can be configured from the **Answer File** section. Right-click **Create or Open an Answer File** and click **New Answer File**.





Step 2: To configure an .xml answer file, add components or packages from the **Windows Image** section to the .xml answer file.





4.3 Setting Regional and Language Options

Step 1: In the Windows Image pane, expand the Components node and select Microsoft-Windows-International-Core-WinPE. For example, select amd64_ Microsoft-Windows-International-Core-WinPE, because a 64-bit image is chosen. If a 32-bit image is chosen, then X86_Microsoft-Windows-International-Core-WinPE can be chosen. Right-click the option, and then click Add Setting to Pass 1 Windows PE as shown in the sample screen shot here.

📑 Untitled - Windows System Imag	ge Manager				X
File Edit Insert Tools H	lelp				
: 🖻 🇀 🗃 🔜 🔏 🖷 🗙	i 🔎 😼 👩 🔞				
Distribution Share			Answer File	SetuniIII anguage	Broportios
- Select a Distribution Share	•			A Properties	Propercies
			Components	ApplicableConfigura	ation 1 windowsPE
			1 windowsPE	Component	Microsoft-Windows-Internationa
			2 office Servicing	Path A Sattings	SetupUILanguage
			4 specialize	UILanguage	
				WillShowUI	OnError
			7 ophe System		
			ackages		
Windows Image	ERSTANDARD				
Components	ERSTANDARD	Â			
amd64_Microsoft-Windo	ows-AllUserInstallAgent_6.2.8400.0_neutral				
amd64_Microsoft-Windo	ows-Audio-AudioCore_6.2.8400.0_neutral				
amd64_Microsoft-Windo	ows-Audio-VolumeControl_6.2.8400.0_neutral ows-BLB-WSB-Online-Main_6.2.8400.0_neutral				
amd64_Microsoft-Windo	ows-BrowserService_6.2.8400.0_neutral	=			
amd64_Microsoft-Windo	ows-Deployment_6.2.8400.0_neutral				
amd64_Microsoft-Windo	ows-Diag.cpi_6.2.6400.0_neutral ows-Disk-Failure-Diagnostic-Module 6.2.8400.0 ne	eutral			
amd64_Microsoft-Windo	ows-DNS-Client_6.2.8400.0_neutral				
amd64_Microsoft-Windo	ows-EnhancedStorage-Adm_6.2.8400.0_neutral				
amd64_Microsoft-Windo	ows-ErrorReportingCore_6.2.8400.0_neutral ows-Fax-Service 6.2.8400.0_neutral				
amd64_Microsoft-Windo	ows-HelpAndSupport_6.2.8400.0_neutral				
amd64_Microsoft-Windo	ows-IE-ClientNetworkProtocolImplementation_10.0	.8400 0_neutral			
amd64_Microsoft-Windo	ows-IE-ESC_10.0.8400.0_neutral ows-IE-InternetExplorer_10.0.8400.0_neutral				
amd64_Microsoft-Windo	ows-International-Core_6.2.8400.0_neutral				
in amd64_Microsoft-Windo	ows-International-Core-WinPE_6.2.8400.0_neutral			Annual Configure	No-Decode
amd64 Microsoft	Add Setting to Pass 1 windowsPE			Applicableconingura	atom asses
amd64_Microsoft	Add Setting to Pass 2 offlineServicing	1			
i amd64_Microsoft	Add Setting to Pass 1 windowsPE				
and 64 Microsoft	Add Setting to Pass 4 specialize	ral	Messages		
amd64_Microsoft	Add Setting to Pass 5 auditSystem		XIVIL (0) Validation (0) Configuration Set (0)		
amd64_Microsoft	Add Setting to Pass 6 auditUser	tral	Description	La	ocation
amd64_Microsoft	Add Setting to Pass 7 oobeSystem				
amd64_Microsoft	Comu Ctrili C				
amd64_Microsoft 43	Lula D				
amd64_Microsoft-vv=rux	meip FI	1			
amd64 Microsoft-Windo	ows-RemoteAssistance-Exe 6.2.8400.0 neutral	-			

Step2: In the **Answer File** pane, expand the newly added setting and enter **en-US** as the value for **InputLocale**, **SystemLocale**, **UILanguage**, **UILanguageFallback**, and **UserLocale** in the **Properties** pane.





Step 3: Expand SetupUILanguage; add the en-US value to the UILanguage option.

Answer File	SetupUILanguage Properties
⊡ 🖭 Untitled	Properties
🚊 📲 Components	AppliedConfigurationPa 1 windowsPE
🚊 🔩 1 windowsPE	Component Microsoft-Windows-Internationa
international-Core-V amd64_Microsoft-Windows-International-Core-V	-V Path Setup UILanguage
Setup UILanguage	▲ Settings
	UlLanguage en-US
	WillShowUI OnError

Step 4: The .xml answer file is created and configured for language and regional options. The **Validate answer File** feature can be used to validate the changes made and the **Messages** pane can be looked for any messages.

d Untitled* - Windows System Image Manager		- - ×
<u>Eile E</u> dit Insert <u>T</u> ools <u>H</u> elp		
Distribution Share	Answer File	SetupUILanguage Properties
Select a Distribution Share	E Untitled	⊿ Properties
	Components	AppliedConfigurationPa 1 windowsPE
	B-Wa 1 windowsPE	Component Microsoft-Windows-Internationa
	amd64_Microsoft-Windows-International-Core-V	Path SetupUILanguage
	2 offline Servicing	Settings
	3 generalize	WillShawi III OoEmar
		Willshowof
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amd64_Microsoft-Windows-BrowserService_6.2.8400.0_neutral		
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amd64_Microsoft-Windows-OutOfBoxExperience_6.2.8400.0_neutral	XML (0) Violation (0) Configuration Set (0)	
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amd64_Microsoft-Windows-PnpCustomizationsNonWinPE_6.2.8400.0_neutral	No warnings or errors.	
amd64_Microsoft-Windows-PnpCustomizationsWinPE_6.2.8400.0_neutral		
amdb4_Microsoft-Windows-PhpSysprep_6.2.8400.0_neutral		
amuo4_Microsoft-Windows-powercpi_5.2.8400.0_neutral		
amuo+_microsoft-windows-Finiung-spooler-core_o.z.o400.0_neutral		
amd64_Microsoft-Windows-RemoteAssistance-Exe_6.2.8400.0 neutral		



4.4 Joining a Domain

Step 1: In the Components section of Windows Image pane, right-click Microsoft-Windows-UnattendedJoin, and then select Add Setting to Pass 4 Specialize.



Step 2: In the **Answer File** pane, expand the newly-added setting. Select **Identification** and enter the domain name in the **JoinDomain** field. In addition, if **log domain join failures** (logs to c:\windows\panther\unattendGC\) need to be collected, then reset value of **DebugJoin** from false to **true**.



Note: If a server is unable to join the required domain, an error message will appear during the OS installation process. For example, **Windows could not parse or process the unattended .xml answer file for pass [specialize] (See below). The settings specified in the answer file cannot be applied. The**

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error was detected while processing settings for component [Microsoft-Windows-UnattendedJoin]. The system is unable to join the domain because an incorrect password was entered for the.xml file.



Step 3: In the **Answer File** pane, click **Credentials** under **Identification**, and then enter the required domain, username, and password for the account which will join this computer to the domain.





Step 4: Validate your .xml answer file by clicking the **Validate** icon. Check the **Messages** pane to make sure there are no warnings or errors.





4.5 Configuring Hard Disk Drive (HDD)

Step 1: Select **Microsoft-Windows-Setup** from the options in the **Components** section of the **Windows Image** section. Expand **DiskConfiguration**, right-click **Disk**, and then click **Add Setting to Pass 1 windowsPE**.



Step 2: Under Settings, set the DiskID value to "0".



Note: While installing an OS, if the following message is displayed, make sure that the hard drive on which you want to install OS is set to '0'. Else, make sure to enter correct disk ID as shown in the screen



shot here. If an error is displayed even after DiskID is correctly set; reset the **WillWipeDisk** value to **true** in the **Properties** section.

The installation was canceled	
Any changes that were made to your computer	during the installation process will not be saved.
Install Windows	×
occurred while applying the unatt Error code: 0x80300025	end answer file's <diskconfiguration> setting.</diskconfiguration>



Step 3: To part a hard disk drive to be of 40GB in size, add the Microsoft-Windows-Setup\DiskConfiguration\Disk\CreatePartitions\CreatePartition component to the windowsPE pass.





Step 4: If the boot mode is BIOS, set the values in Settings.



Step 5: If the boot mode is UEFI, you must create two types of partitions:

a. To create the first partition, from the **Type** drop-down menu, select **EFI**, and then in the **Size** box, type an appropriate disk memory capacity (size) on the basis of recommendations by Microsoft at http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc766450(v=ws.10).aspx.

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b. To create the second partition, from the **Type** drop-down menu, select **MSR**, and then in the **Size** box, type an appropriate disk size on the basis of recommendations by Microsoft at http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc766450(v=ws.10).aspx.

Autounattend_UEFI_2k:bk64sp2 Components IwindowsPE amd64_Microsoft-Windows-International-Core-WinPE_neutral amd64_Microsoft-Windows-Setup_neutral DiskCorfiguration DiskCorfiguration CreatePartition[Order="1"] CreatePartition[Order="1"]	Properties AppliedConfigurationPass Component KeyName Path	1 windowsPE Microsoft-Windows-Setup Order DiskConfiguration/Disk(Disk1D="2"//CreatePartitions/Cre				
	Settings Action Extend Order Size Type	AddListItem false 2 128 MSR				

Step 6: Add the Microsoft-Windows-Setup\DiskConfiguration\Disk\ModifyPartitions\ModifyPartition node to the windowsPE pass.





Note: While editing your settings, make sure to set order and partition ID. If not set, the operation cannot be successfully completed. Also, set **Active** to **true** and **Format** to **NTFS**.



Step 7: As hard drives are sorted, indicate Windows about the location where the OS must be installed. Add the **Microsoft-Windows-Setup\ImageInstall\OSImage\InstallTo** node to the **windowsPE** configuration pass.





Step 8: Set the DiskID value to '0' and PartitionID to '1'.



Step 9: To add more partitions, right-click **CreatePartitions**, and then select **Insert New CreatePartition**.



Step 10: In the Settings section, enter the values for Order, Size, and Type (do not set Extend to 'true', if Size is set to a value).





Step 11: The hard drive partition must be modified after creating a new partition. Right-click **ModifyPartitions** and click **Insert New Modify Partition**.



Step 12: Change attributes in the **Properties** section. Make sure that you enter correct values **Order** and **PartitionID**.





Step 13: Validate your answer file by clicking the **Validate** button, and then check the results of validation in the **Massages** section.

Step 14: After the deployment is complete, see the partitions listed in Explorer.

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4.6 Changing Computer Name

Step 1: Add the Microsoft-Windows-Shell-Setup component from the Windows Image pane to the Pass 4 Specialize section of the Answer file pane.



Step 2: Add a computer name, and then validate your answer file.





4.7 Adding Product Key

Step 1: Add the product key Microsoft-Windows-Setup\UserData\ProductKey to the WindowsPE configuration pass.



Step 2: Enter your key along with all the hyphens (-) symbols and set the WillShowUI value to Never.





Step 3: Click Validate to check your answer file.

4.8 Editing Full Name and Organization Details

Step 1: Add the Microsoft-Windows-Setup\UserData\ component to the WindowsPE configuration pass.



Step 2: Set the AcceptEULA, Fullname, and Organization name in Properties pane.







Further References

- 1. Unattended Installation Technical Reference: http://technet.microsoft.com/enus/library/cc785417(v=ws.10).aspx.
- 2. Unattended Windows Setup Reference: http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ff699026.aspx.
- 3. Windows System Image Manager (Windows SIM) Technical Reference: http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/hh824929.aspx.
- 4. Step-by-Step: Basic Windows Deployment for IT Professionals: http://technet.microsoft.com/enus/library/dd349348(WS.10).aspx.
- 5. What is Windows SIM and how can I use it ?: http://www.windows-noob.com/forums/index.php?/topic/575-what-is-windows-sim-and-how-can-i-use-it/.
- 6. Windows System Image Manager (WSIM): http://www.windows-noob.com/forums/index.php?/forum/59windows-system-image-manager-wsim/

