

Testing Windows Installer Packages for Application Virtualization Compatibility

If you are contemplating adopting application virtualization and moving your current MSI portfolio to a virtual format, it's important to know which of your MSIs are good candidates for virtualization, and which aren't.

AdminStudio can help. You can use the Pre-Conversion Evaluation feature found in AdminStudio 9.0's Windows Installer Converter to test applications for virtualization compatibility before proceeding with conversion. This feature gives you a way to evaluate at a high level how quickly a virtualization rollout could be adopted.

When performing a pre-conversion evaluation, AdminStudio's Windows Installer Converter applies a set of pre-defined rules to evaluate packages. However, the Windows Installer Converter also incorporates an extensible test framework that enables you to write your own custom rules to detect and fix issues that could prevent the successful creation of a virtual package. As you gain experience in virtualization conversion, you can build additional rules to address any issues that you have found, making the virtualization experience in the future even more streamlined for your organization.

Test results are displayed in HTML format, which can be saved and reviewed by others. After reviewing the test results you can decide which packages you want to convert. Those that are deemed suitable for conversion will be pre-selected. You can then decide to proceed with conversion of the selected packages or wait until a later date to perform conversion.

Plus, with AdminStudio's batch conversion capability, there is no need to waste precious time following an otherwise manual and tedious process of package-by-package creation and testing. Run the test on Friday afternoon before you go home, and come back Monday to a slew of reports.

To test Windows Installer packages for virtualization compatibility with AdminStudio:

1. Open the Windows Installer Converter by doing one of the following:

- On the Repackager **Home** page, select **Convert a Windows Installer Package to an Application Virtualization Format**.
- On the Repackager **Tools** menu, select **Windows Installer Converter**.
- Open the Windows **Start Menu** and select **Windows Installer Converter** under **All Programs/AdminStudio/AdminStudio 9.0 Tools/Virtualization**.

The **Welcome Panel** of the Windows Installer Converter opens.

2. Click **Next** to continue. The **Select Conversion Target** panel opens.

3. Select the virtualization format(s) that you are planning to convert to. The **Conversion Mode** panel opens.

4. Select your desired conversion mode:

- Single Application
- Batch Convert

Note: If you select the Virtual Suite conversion mode, the testing option is not supported.

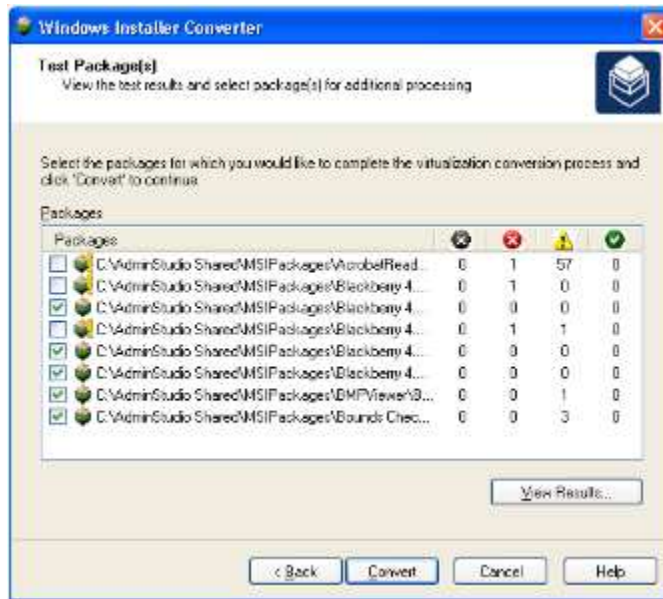
5. Select the **Evaluate package(s) for virtualization suitability** option.

6. Proceed with package conversion as described in [Converting a Single Application to a Virtual Package](#), [Converting a Suite of Applications into a Virtual Package](#), or [Converting a Directory of Packages into Individual Virtual Packages](#).

7. Click **Test**. The **Test Package(s)** panel opens and testing begins.



When testing is complete, the results for each package are displayed:

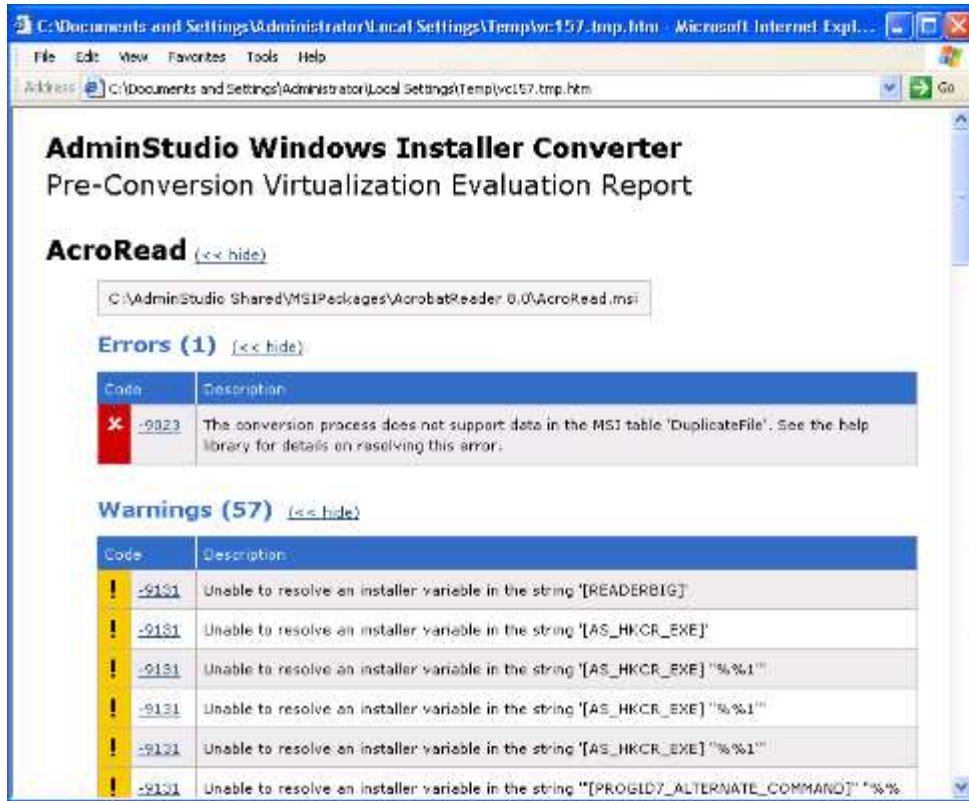


The number of errors and warnings generated are displayed under the appropriate icon:

Icon	Name	Description
	Fix	Windows Installer Converter discovered an issue and resolved it.
	Warning	The virtual package will probably run, but may not.
	Error	The virtual package probably won't run, but under some circumstances it may.
	Fatal Error	The virtual package will not run.

Those packages that did not have any errors or fatal errors are selected and the **Convert** button is enabled.

8. Click **View Results**. An HTML report is generated that lists all of the messages and provides links to a help topic for each message:



9. To save the HTML report, select **Save As** from the **File** menu.

10. Select those packages that you want to convert and click **Convert**. Conversion begins.

When package conversion is complete, a **Conversion completed** message appears in the **Output** window and the path to the generated virtual package(s) is provided.

11. Click **Finish** to close the Windows Installer Converter.

Extensible Test Framework: Writing Your Own Rules for Virtualization Conversion

AdminStudio has an extensible test framework for the Windows Installer Converter that you can use to write your own custom rules to evaluate virtual packages.

- **Rules detect specific issues**—Rules should be designed to detect specific issues in specific packages.
- **Rules are run during Pre-Conversion Evaluation**—The existing Windows Installer Converter Pre-Conversion Evaluation feature will also run these tests, so any test that detects an error on conversion will also be able to detect it during a pre-conversion evaluation.
- **Tests can contain fixes that are implemented during conversion**—Tests will sometimes contain remediations that can correct a failure automatically. The remediations are only run on

conversion and not during a pre-conversion evaluation.