# Software Deployment can be so easy!

# My experiences and simple steps

# Jürgen Rinelli



Jürgen Rinelli Am Eichet 6a 85302 Alberzell info@success.eu.com

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# 1. A few words

Even back then, when I was still at the helm myself, it was often a time-consuming challenge to roll out software in the company.

The reasons? Apart from the totally crazy idea of doing all of this without the employees' knowledge or interference?

There are:

- Poorly or insufficiently packaged software
- Missing or incomplete documentation
- Missing full installers
- Oh, and of course missing documentation about silent install switches

This all adds up to the crazy idea mentioned above of doing everything without any user interaction and without disturbing employees. Let's be honest! I am now in my mid-fifties and have a few decades of these discussions on my now bald head. Today, this strategy is taking its revenge. Because the employees are poorly trained without involving them. They are not prepared enough and use unpatched systems privately. Worse still, they may even use these systems to log into our company networks via browsers or other tools.

Well, this discussion is going nowhere and I'm just opening a wound for one or the other. So back to the core message of this e-book: "Software deployment can be so easy!"

Since I'm a pretty lazy person, I want to make this job as easy as possible when it comes to software deployment. To do this, I need the right tool. A tool that does as much as possible for me, and for me that is definitely "Endpoint Central" from ManageEngine.

In this e-book, I therefore want to use my preferred and 100% recommended solution to show you how easy I can make my life with software distribution and what a software distribution tool must have as a minimum. I will show all the steps using an example and document it with screenshots.

In the end I will then give you a tip on how to make your life even easier with the Self Service Portal and at the same time save on support and increase system security.

So let's get started 😊

# 2. Create and distribute template-based software packages

The effort involved in searching for installation switches and full installers is often quite great and you cannot be sure that nothing will change in the switches over time. The download installers often offered today, which initiate the complete download of the software during the installation of this download installer, cannot be used in Enterprise Enrolment. In order to get these full installers, I often have to contact the manufacturer in a laborious and time-consuming process. But I don't have the time to do this when I have to roll out software. It usually has to be done yesterday.

ManageEngine is doing a fantastic job here (I almost cried when I saw this). They offer templates.

)Endpoint Central H	ome	Configu	urations Threats & Patches	Software Deployment	nventory OS Deplo	wment Mobile Devic	e Mgmt Tools .	Agent Admin B	rowsers Ap	pCtrl •••		🛐 Jump to SDP	ଦ 귾 🛆 ୫ 🄇
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			VSCodium (x64) (1.87.2.24072)	VSCodium	VSCodium	🖉 Windows	90 MB	13/03/2024	Yet	o Start	Non-Commercial	Automatic	Create Package
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nc Now			Snagit 2024 (x64) (24.1.1)	Snagit 2024 (x64)	TechSmith Corpor	💐 Windows	447 MB	13/03/2024	Yet	o Start	Non-Commercial	Automatic	Create Package
Update: 14/03/2024 09:17:32													1, 25 of 108341 25 ×

At the time the screenshot was taken, there were 108,341 templates! For different operating systems such as Windows, Mac, Ubuntu, Debian and Redhat.

What is such a template: It is a template in which the installation and uninstallation parameters, as well as a link to the full installer directly from the respective software manufacturer, are entered.

Using Opera as an example, I will show you all the steps from package to distribution.

#### First, I search for the software using the magnifying glass icon on the far right:

ackage creation ackages	Recently added Templa	tes ?			1393	Ready-to-be		tes for the created pa	ckages	0
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ckages	How package creation works?  How package creation works?  Create Package Filter By: Status  Application String Only  Open Statle (x44) (108.0.50c.724)	Per Software Name Operal Opera Stable	Vendor String Only Opera	Operating System	* Download Size 115 MB	Update automatic Added Time	Status Yet to Start	License Type	Notify Template Relea	se Get your Applicatio Total :4   > Action

Here I select the Windows x64 package:

## **Application Details**

 $\times$ 

Name		
Version	r	108.0.5067.24
Гуре	)î	exe
Platform	14	Windows
ocation	200	Opera_108.0.5067.24_Setup_x64.exe
nsta <mark>ll</mark> Switches	÷	/install /silent /norestart /launchopera=0 / setdefaultbrowser=0 /allusers=1
Uninstall switches	a	<pre>\$programfiles\Opera\Launcher.exe /uninstall /silent</pre>
license	:	Non-Commercial

As you can see, the Location (blue link with the .exe), Install Switches and Uninstall Switches are already included here.

If I now click on the "Create Package" button, I get another handy dialog:

Create Packa	ge for "Opera Stable ()	(64) (108.0.5067.24)"	×
<u>A</u>			20 A 40 A 40
<b>U</b> Preparin	ng to download the package	e with silent switches/argu	ments
Auto	matically update <b>Opera St</b>	able to the latest version w	vhen available
	Create Pack	cage Close	

I am asked if I would like a new package to be created automatically when there is a new version. Fantastic! Of course, I want that - so I check the box and move on to the next great function.

Opera	🖉 Windows	104 MB		13/03/202
Create Package for	"Opera Stable (x6	4) (108.0.5067.24	ł)"	×
Preparing to do	ownload the package v	vith silent switches/arg	guments	
🗹 Automatica	lly update <b>Opera Stat</b>	le to the latest version	n when ava	ilable
Assign Policy	Default Auto Upda	te Policy	*	(?)
	View Details   Cr	eate/Modify Policy		
	Create Packa	close		
	Circare r acras			

Here I can assign a policy to the package. An update policy gives me several great features. I can create a new one via Create/Modify Policy or display the details of the selected Auto Update Policy. The policy shown in the example only includes the creation of a new package when there is a new version and the automatic update of the package when it is assigned to a group in the Self Service Portal:

Policy Details	Associated Package(s)	
	Associated Package(s)	
Whenever a newer	version available	
🕑 Update packag	e(s), if published in Self Service Portal	
8 Update packag	e(s) in User-defined templates	
Retain Data for the	following when Package(s) Update:	
8 Pre/Post deplo	yment activities configured	
8 Package descri		

I can use Create/Modify Policy to create a new one with the option of updating the packages in templates that I have created. In addition to adopting the package description, I can also choose to customize pre/post deployment activities, which I can configure separately in a package - we will see these later.

I select the default policy and click on Create Package. This starts the download and package creation. In my example, it took just 5 seconds.

🗧 Endpoint Central	Home Configurations Threats & Patches Software Deployment Inventory OS	Deployment Mabile Device Mgmt Tools Agent Admin Browsers App Ctrl 🚥 🕅 Jump to SDP Q 🍞 🖌	a 4 隊 🏭
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✓ Deployment	Creating package for 'Opera Stable (x64) (108.0.5067.24)'		
Install/Uninstall Software >	How package creation works?	🛛 Notify Template Release 🔮 Cet	your Application Added
User-defined Templater	+ Create Package Filter By: Status * Period	* Operating System *	Total:4   🗙 🏢

After switching to "Packages" in the left outer column, I get to my finished package. (I used the search, as I already have some packages in the list)

⊖ Endpoint Central	Home Configurations Threats & F	Patches Software Deployment Inve	ntory OSDeployment M	lobile Device Mgmt Tools Agent Ac	Imin Browsers App Ctrl •••		mp to SDP Q 🌀 🗟 🦻	😻 🖩
Package creation     Packages     Templates	Unpublished p	ackages in SSP		46	Packages in SSP which are no	t in use		6
Deployment     Install/Uninstall Software     View Configurations	ilter By : Package Type Add Package ▼ × Delete Pa		Platform • Mark License Type •			Watch Demo	Need to deploy software to othe     Total: 1	er Linux OS's
User-defined Templates	Package Name	🗧 Software Name	Created By	Modified Time	Auto-update status	Platform	Action	~
Trash	String Only	Opera	<u> </u>					
Self Service Portal	Opera Stable (x64) (108.0	0.5067.24) Opera Stable	janprem	14/03/2024 17:43:56	Ø Enabled	🚑 Windows		
Reports							1-1 of 1	75 -
Solf Sonvice Portal Paparte								

I can distribute the software directly via the "Action" button on the right (Install Software - Computer).

🛟 Endpoint Central 💦 👔	Iome Configurations Threats & Patches	Software Deployment Inventory	v OS Deployment M	obile Device Mgmt Tools	Agent Admin	Browsers App Ctrl		50 Jump to SDF	• Q 🕝 🚨 🤣	🌒 II
<ul> <li>Package creation</li> </ul>										
Packages	Unpublished packag	es in SSP		46	Pac	kages in SSP which are r	not in use			6
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Deployment								Watch Demo Kee	to deploy software to othe	er Linux OS's
Install/Uninstall Software	Filter By : Package Type *	License Type * Platfor	m v							
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User-defined Templates	Package Name	Software Name	Created By	Modified Time		Auto-update status	PI	Modify	Action	
Trash	String Only	Opera						Install Software - Computer		
Self Service Portal	Opera Stable (x64) (108.0.5067.2	4) Opera Stable	janprem	14/03/2024 17:	43:56	② Enabled		Install Software - User		
Reports								Delete	Action 1-1 of 1	75 -
Self Service Portal Reports								Save package as		
SSP Usage Reports										

The Opera browser is not yet installed on my test system (screenshot shows programs and features via Endpoint Central remote control):

logs	Programme und Features						– 🗆 🗙	
	← → ∽ ↑ 🖬 > Systemste	euerung > Programme > Programme und Features				Programme u	ind Features durc ,9	
-	Startseite der Systemsteuerung	Programm deinstallieren oder ände	m					5
0	Installierte Updates anzeigen							C
Papierkorb	Windows-Features aktivieren	Wählen Sie ein Programm aus der Liste aus, un	d klicken Sie auf "Deinställieren", "Andern"	oder Kepaneren	", um es zu de	nstallieren.		
	oder deaktivieren							
		Organisieren 👻					BII • (?)	
_		Name	Herausgeber	Installiert am	Größe	Version	^	
<b>W</b> =		- Nero 2014	Nero AG	24.12.2015	70,1 MB	15.0.06800		
Andrea Bocelli -		Nero 2014 Content Pack	Nero AG	02.02.2017	47,2 MB	15.0.00200		
Si.docx		Nero CoverDesigner 2018	Nero AG	31.10.2018	145 MB	19.0.00100		
		Nero Info	Nero AG	14.02.2019	7,78 MB	20.0.1011		
		Mero Prerequisite Installer 3.0	Nero AG	24.12.2015	2,19 MB	15.0.00900		
		There Prerequisite Installer 6.0	Nero AG	02.02.2017	7,25 MB	18.0.00100		
		A NoteBook FanControl	Stefan Hirschmann - StagWare	22.12.2020	6,28 MB	1.5.0.0		
Beispiel DLP.txt		Votepad++ (32-bit x86)	Notepad++ Team	22.03.2023	19,3 MB	8.5		
		NVIDIA GeForce Experience 3.6.0.74	NVIDIA Corporation	09.06.2017	2,59 MB	3.6.0.74		
		NVIDIA PhysX-Systemsoftware 9.16.0318	NVIDIA Corporation	17.12.2016	406 MB	9.16.0318		
		6 Paint	Microsoft Corporation	23.02.2024				
		PlayMemories Home	Sony Corporation	16.05.2019		6.0.00.12211		
		PuTTY release 0.76 (64-bit)	Simon Tatham	03.08.2021	4,18 MB	0.76.0.0		
		Nemotedesktopverbindung	Microsoft Corporation	23.02.2024				
		Samsung SideSync	Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.	22.12.2020		4.2.0.37		
		Samsung USB Driver for Mobile Phones	Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.	22.12.2020	24,0 MB	1.5.58.0		
		Momentan installierte Programme						

• Adage randia   Package   Torpulse   • Varbage   • Varbage <t< th=""><th></th></t<>	
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Install/Unitability   Vew Configurations   User defined Templates   Train   Sef Since Portal   Vex Configurations   Vex Configurations   Vex Configurations   Sef Since Portal   Sef Since Portal   Sef Since Portal   Softyane Repository	
User-defined Templates   Tank   Set Service Portal Reports   Setters   Setters   Setters   Deployment Policies   Deployment Policies   Set Service Portal Settings   Reports   Set Service Portal Settings   Mathet Linux Settings	
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Auto-update Templates Pracy Settings Define Target Deployment Policies Set Service Portal Settings Filer Computer I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I	
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Set Service Portal Settings Target 1 Renote Office/Domain RINELLICORP 7	
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Computer * JANPREN-PC Exclude Target Remote Office * Select	
Rende Office	
SwcApplication Details Help	5
Sync Now Apply this configuration at every Startup	
Apply this configuration during every Refresh Cycle ?	
Retry this configuration on failed targets	
Retry for 2 * time(s), out of which retry	
1 time(s) during startup	
1 mmels) during refresh	
Enable Notification Enabling this option, will automatically send notifications via email based on the specified frequency	
Scheduler Settings	
install After 2	
Do not apply this configuration after the time specified below	
Deploy mediately Sav As  Cancel	
© 2024 Zoho Corporation Private Limited. All rights reserved.	B

So go to the step Install Software - Computer and fill in the configuration:

I simply enter a name for the deployment here - if I don't want the automatically generated one, I enter a deployment policy and define the target. Apart from clicking on the blue "Deploy" button, I don't need to do anything else. The details of the deployment policies that explain the 'how and when' of a deployment are shown in detail in the first e-book in this series, entitled "Patch management is no longer rocket science".

I can now see the overview of my configuration with the progress. A refresh can be carried out using the button on the right-hand side above the yellow circle.

(	Opera Test-Installation				۵.
	Immediate Deployment - E To get current status please of It will not work for computer		ers will happen during regular refresh cycles.		
	Is the deployed configuration of the second se	on status always in "Ready to Execute"? puter/user remains in "Yet To Apply" due to one or more	reasons, refer to the Learn More		
		o Trash Save as Template Save As New   tion Details Execution Status Replication D	ietails		₿ Refresh K >
	Configuration Details			Execution Summary	њ.
non	Name Description Category Current Status Platform Type Created Time Created By Modified Time Modified By Enable Notification Enable Retry	<ul> <li>Opera Test-Installation /</li> <li>-/</li> <li>metallation /</li> <li>metall/Uninstall Windows Software</li> <li>Ready To Execute</li> <li>windows</li> <li>Computer</li> <li>14/03/2024 18:09:39</li> <li>14/03/2024 18:09:39</li> <li>14/03/2024 18:09:39</li> <li>14/03/2024 18:09:39</li> <li>14/03/2024 18:09:39</li> <li>No</li> <li>No</li> <li>Yes</li> </ul>			Yet To Apply B Succeeds Failed Not Applicable Retry In Progress Failed Not Applicable Retry In Progress (Failed)
	Total Retry Count	: 2			
	Target Scope		Apply To	Excluded Items	
	Domain : RINELLICORP		Computer :	,	•

### Less than a minute later I have the following picture:

odify   Suspend Move to	o Trash Save as Template Save As New 🔻			C Refresh K
Summary Configurati	ion Details Execution Status Replication I	Details		
Configuration Details			Execution Summary	и.
Name	: Opera Test-Installation 🖍			
Description	: -/			Yet To Apply
Category	: 🖄 Install/Uninstall Windows Software			In Progress
Current Status	: 🗸 Executed			Not Applicable Retry In Progress
Platform	: No windows			In Progress (Failed)
Туре	: 🖵 Computer			
Created Time	: 14/03/2024 18:09:39			
Created By	: janprem			
Modified Time	: 14/03/2024 18:09:39			
Modified By	: janprem			
Enable Notification	: No			
Enable Retry	: Yes		1	
Total Retry Count	: 2			
Target Scope		Apply To	Excluded Items	
Domain : RINELLICORP		Computer : RINELLICORP: JANPREM-PC		

Is that really the case? Let's go to my test system and have a look  $\ldots$ 

	5 - 5 K / 15						
	← → ↑ ↑ 🖸 > Systemster	uerung > Programme > Programme und Features			~	Programme u	ind Features durc
0	Startseite der Systemsteuerung	Programm deinstallieren oder ände	m				
Papierkorb	Installierte Updates anzeigen	Wählen Sie ein Programm aus der Liste aus, un	d klicken Sie auf "Deinstallieren", "Ändern"	oder "Reparieren	n", um es zu de	installieren.	
	Windows-Features aktivieren						
	oder deaktivieren	Organisieren 👻					III -
_		Name	Herausgeber	Installiert am	Größe	Version	8 ·
<b>w</b> =		There Prerequisite Installer 6.0	Nero AG	02.02.2017	7.25 MB	18.0.00100	
Andrea Bocelli -		A NoteBook FanControl	Stefan Hirschmann - StagWare	22.12.2020	6.28 MB		
Si.docx		Notepad++ (32-bit x86)	Notepad++ Team	22.03.2023	19.3 MB		
		NVIDIA GeForce Experience 3.6.0.74	NVIDIA Corporation	09.06.2017		3.6.0.74	
	100 C	NVIDIA PhysX-Systemsoftware 9.16.0318	NVIDIA Corporation	17.12.2016		9.16.0318	
-		Opera Stable 108.0.5067.24	Opera Software	14.03.2024		108.0.5067.24	
		Paint	Microsoft Corporation	23.02.2024			
Beispiel DLP.txt		PlayMemories Home	Sony Corporation	16.05.2019		6.0.00.12211	
/		PuTTY release 0.76 (64-bit)	Simon Tatham	03.08.2021	4,18 MB	0.76.0.0	
		Remotedesktopverbindung	Microsoft Corporation	23.02.2024			
		Samsung SideSync	Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.	22.12.2020		4.2.0.37	
		Samsung USB Driver for Mobile Phones	Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.	22.12.2020	24,0 MB	1.5.58.0	
		SanDisk SSD Dashboard	SanDisk Corporation	22.12.2020	125 MB	1.4.1	
Opera-Browser		SanDisk SSD Dashboard Service	SanDisk Corporation	25.12.2015	728 KB	1.0.0	
		Skype Version 8.75	Skype Technologies S.A.	11.10.2021	250 MB	8.75	
		Smart Switch	Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.	27.12.2015	32,5 MB	4.0.15113.12	

Since I know where to click ... I need just three minutes for the first successful installation. From the template, to the package, to the finished installation. If you have done it two or three times you can do it in the same time. Let's be honest - an silent installation isn't finished that quickly manually, is it?

Of course, it may be necessary to add one or two things to the software. In other words, to customize the package. To do this, I simply click on "Modify".

								Watch Demo Nee	d to deploy software to other Linux OS
ilter By :	Package Type 👻	Lie	cense Type 🔹 🕴	Platform 👻					
+ Add F	Package  X Delete Packages		🕞 Install/Uninstall Software 🔻	Mark License Type 🔻					Total:1   🗙 🏢
	Package Name	÷	Software Name	Created By	Modified Time	Auto-update status	PI	Modify	Action
	String Only		Opera					Install Software - Computer	
	Opera Stable (x64) (108.0.5067.2	4)	Opera Stable	janprem	14/03/2024 17:43:56	<ul> <li>Enabled</li> </ul>		Install Software - User	
								Delete	1-1 of 1 75 -
								Save package as	

Package Details					
kage Name *	Opera St	able (x64) (108.0.5067.24) X			
kage Type	⊖ MSI/ N	ISP OEXE/APPX/MSIEXEC/MSU			
ense Type *	Non-Cor	nmercial *			
ate installable	O From S	hared Folder O From Local Computer			
	1 file(s)	added (Click or drop to add more)	▲ Browse		
		ra_108.0.5067.24_Setup_x64.exe			
		e are uploaded			
		e are uploaded ip, .bzip2, and .tar files will be extracted autor	natically. Total file si	ze limit is 12 GB.]	
Installation Uninstallation		ip, .bzip2, and .tar files will be extracted autor	natically. Total file si	ze limit is 12 GB]	Watch Demo @ Real world scenarios for pre/post ac
Installation Uninstallation	[.z, .zip, .gz	ip, .bzip2, and .tar files will be extracted autor	natically. Total file si	ze limit is 12 GB.]	Watch Demo     Real world scenarios for pre/post acc
Installation Uninstallation Installation Details	[.z, .zip, .gz	ip, .bzipZ, and .tar files will be extracted auton			<ul> <li>Watch Demo   Real world scenarios for prelipost ac</li> </ul>
	[.z, .zip, .gz	ip, .bzip2, and .tar files will be extracted autor		Zel limit is 12 CB.] Opera, 109.0.596724 Setta, yA4-exe / Install Allert Anochooptara/0/ setdefaulthrowser-0 Allusers-1	Watch Demo Real world scenarios for prefrost ac
1 Installation Details	[.z., zip, .gz	p. Jop 2, and tar files will be extracted auton	/Arguments	Opera, 109.0.596724 Settap. y44.exe / Install Allert. horestar / Auschopera-0/	Watch Demo Real world scenarios for previost ac
Installation Details     Pre-Deployment Activities	[z, zip, gz Advanced Settings	p. Jop 2, and tar files will be extracted auton	/Arguments	Opera_108.0.5067.24.5etup_x64.exe / Instal / Alenet / Instal / Alenet / setude/althrowsen*0 / Allucesv*1	Watch Demo Real world scenarios for previoest ac
Installation Details     Pre-Deployment Activities	[z, zip, gz Advanced Settings	p. Jop 2, and tar files will be extracted auton	/Arguments	Opera_108.0.5067.24.5etup_x64.exe / Instal / Alenet / Instal / Alenet / setude/althrowsen*0 / Allucesv*1	Watch Demo Real world scenarios for previoest ac

I receive the package details, which are already filled in by the template.

I am only interested in the area in the gray box at the bottom left.

Installation Details     Pre-Deployment Activities +	
2 Pre-Deployment Activities +	Installa
3 Post-Deployment Activities +	0

Let's take a look at no. 2, the pre-deployment activities:

Installation Uninstallation Advanced Settings			Watch D
1 Installation Details	Condition ?		
2 Pre-Deployment Activities 🔒 +	Check Data on Registry Value	Check File/Folder	Check Free Disk Space
Drag and drop conditions and configurations.	Check Registry Key/Value	Check Software	
	Configuration ?		
3 Post-Deployment Activities +	€ Create/Append Path	Create/Delete Shortcut	Custom Script
	File Folder Operation	Manage on-going Process	Registry Settings
	Services	Set Environment Variable	C Uninstall Software

Here I can carry out condition checks and create configurations. Checks such as the presence of registry keys, existing software or free hard disk space. Configurations such as scripts, registry keys, handling running processes or services, uninstalling software and much more.

In No. 3 of the list, the post-deployment activities, I find configurations that I can carry out after installing the software:

Installation Uninstallation	Advanced				
1 Installation Details					
			Configuration ?		
2 Pre-Deployment Activities	0111	+		Create/Delete Shortcut	Custom Script
3 Post-Deployment Activities	¢.	+	File Folder Operation	Registry Settings	Services
			b Set Environment Variable		
Drag and drop conditions and co	onfigurations				

An example I always like to give for these pre- and post-activities are the file folder operations. When we have software that the user can customize. Such as columns in different colors, sorting and the like. Then it can happen that these customizations are overwritten after an update. These customizations are usually stored in a local file. I can copy these to a temp directory before the installation and then copy them back to the correct directory after the installation. The second file folder operation shown in the screenshot is then used to clean up the temp directory. In other words, to delete the file again.

nstallation Uninstallation Advanced Settings				Watch E
1 Installation Details	SelectAction	Copy Delete		
2) Pre-Deployment Activities	Select Action Type	• Files File as Archive ?		
	Files*	Choose files (or) Drop here	企 Browse	
File Folder Operation		Maximum file size limit is 12 GB.		
	Destination Folder*		☆	
		[Example: c:\EndpointCentral]		
3 Post-Deployment Activities 🗎 +				
		Proceed with the Installation even if the	above Configuration fails	
		Proceed with the Installation even if the	above Configuration fails.	
nstallation Uninstallation Advanced Settings		Proceed with the Installation even if the analysis of the second seco	above Configuration fails.	Watch
nstallation Advanced Settings		Proceed with the Installation even if the Proceed with the Proceed with the Proceed with	above Configuration fails.	• Watch
			above Configuration fails.	P Watch
1 Installation Details	Select Action	€Copy ◯ Delete	above Configuration fails.	Watch
Installation     Uninstallation     Advanced Settings       1     Installation Details       2     Pre-Deployment Activities		Copy Delete Files File as Archive ?	above Configuration fails.	• Watch
1 Installation Details 2 Pre-Deployment Activities +	Select Action	Copy Delete Files File as Archive ? Choose files (or) Drop here	above Configuration fails.	• Watch
1 Installation Details	Select Action Select Action Type	Copy Delete Files File as Archive ?		Watch
1 Installation Details 2 Pre-Deployment Activities +	Select Action Select Action Type	Copy Delete Files File as Archive ? Choose files (or) Drop here		Watch

# 3. Create your own software packages

The template database is already very powerful, but there is much more software out there and I may also have my own developments in the company. What do I do with them? Is that possible? Logically - otherwise I wouldn't have mentioned it 😊

I can create my own packages for Windows and Mac via "Add Package". I just have to enter all the parameters myself. If I have these to hand and also the installer - I'm done in a minute.

🜔 Endpoint Central	Home	Configurations	Threats & Patches	Software Deployme
✓ Package creation				
Packages		E Un	published packages	s in SSP
Templates		EG	published package.	111551
✓ Deployment				
Install/Uninstall Software	>	er By: Package	e Type 🔹 🔹	License Type
View Configurations		+ Add Package -	× Delete Packages	G Install/Uninstall
User-defined Templates		🕼 Windows	lame 🗘	Software Name
Trash		🗯 Mac	у	String Only
Self Service Portal		Adobe Re	ader XI (11.0.23)	Adobe Reader
			(r +0 +0 + 1)	-

ackage Details				
age Name*	Max 100	chars.		
аде Туре	MSI/MSI/MSI	SP OEXE/APPX/MSIEXEC/MSU		
ise Type *	Select		•	
te installable	From Sh	ared Folder 💿 From Local Compute	r	
	Choose f	files (or) Drop here	⊥ Browse	
	[.z, .zip, .gzi]	p, .bzīp2, and .tar files will be extracted	automatically. Total i	file size limit is 12 GB.]
Installation Uninstallation A	LZ, ZID, gZI			file size limit is 12 GB.]
		p, Jzip2, and .tar files will be extracted		Ne size limit is 12 GB.]
1 Installation Details	Advanced Settings	Installation Command with Swi	tches/Arguments	
Installation Details     Pre-Deployment Activities	Advanced Settings	Installation Command with Swi	tches/Arguments	ļī,

The dialog is the same as earlier when we edited the package with the pre- and post-deployment activities. For a new package, I only have to specify the name, the type of installer, the license type and the installation switches/arguments. I can copy the installers into the dialog via the console using drag and drop or browse. Of course, I can also specify a network drive. Complete the uninstallation in the same way as the installation. The Advanced Settings then finally complete the package.

11.

Advanced Options			
Exit code	0		
Architecture	32-bit	Ŧ	
Maximum Time Limit for Installation (Hours)	2	<b>.</b>	
Package Properties			
Application Name		2	
Version			
Vendor			
Language			
Package Description			
		li.	

And our own package is ready.

# 4. Create software bundles

For me, software bundles are task sequences. In other words, more than one piece of software that I want to install in a configuration in a certain order. On the one hand software that has prerequisites and on the other hand standard software that I want to install in one go on newly refueled systems.

To do this, I create a computer configuration via Install/Uninstall Software:

⊖ Endpoint Central	Home Configurations Threats & I	Patches Software Deployment Inven				
<ul> <li>Package creation</li> </ul>						
Packages	F Windows	kages in SSP				
Templates	요 User Configuration					
✓ Deployment	Computer Configuration					
Install/Uninstall Software	📕 🔹 Mac	▼ License Type ▼ Pla				
View Configurations	Computer Configuration	ages 🛛 🗔 Install/Uninstall Software 🔻				
User-defined Templates	∆ Linux	Software Name				
Trash	Computer Configuration	String Only				
Self Service Portal	Adobe Reader XI (11.0.23	3) Adobe Reader				

The next dialog is one we are already familiar with. Here I enter the name - in this example "Standard software". Add the packages via point 2 "Add More Packages", select the deployment policy via point 3 and the targets via point 4. You could use a special OU as the target. I like to use a "New Computers" OU as an example. I put all new computers in there and without having to configure anything else, all computers that end up there automatically receive this software. Practical, isn't it?

Software	Deployment	can be so e	easy! – from	Jürgen Rinelli
----------	------------	-------------	--------------	----------------

stall/Uninstall Windows Software (	Computer)					
Name and Description						
Name *	1 Standardsoftware	Add Description				
nstall/Uninstall Windows Software						
Package Settings						
Packages						
Package Name			Run As	Operation Type	Copy Option	Actions
Adobe Reader XI (11.0.23)				Install	None	
Google Chrome (x64) (122.0.6261.	128, 122.0.6261.129)			Install	None	
Notepad++ (x64) (8.6.4)			-	Install	None	•••
WinRAR (x64) (7.00)			-	Install	None	
Operation Type	• Install Uninstall					
Package Name*	Select	* C				
		Ad	d More Packages	2		
Deployment Settings						
Apply Deployment Policy*	3 Select Policy	Create/Mod	lify/Save As Policy			
Define Target						
Target 1 Remote Of	fice/Domain Choose either Remote Office or Domain				/h T 4	)

## 5. Self Service Portal

The Self Service Portal gives me the freedom to make software available to employees for installation, repair and uninstallation.

On the one hand, I can make special software that differs from the standard software available to the relevant employees. On the other hand, I can make life even easier for myself by only installing the mail program on the new systems. The employees can install the rest themselves. Depending on what they need. Another advantage is that if the software malfunctions, the employees can initiate a repair - before they contact me in support.

The biggest advantage for me, however, is that not every system needs every piece of software, which reduces unnecessary security vulnerabilities. Let's say I have 100 systems and roll out Acrobat Reader on each of them, for example. However, it is actually only needed by 20 employees. Then I have 80 systems with software that is never used, but which I have to patch diligently. If an agent is not accessible or the system is not updated for a long time, then there is an unnecessary security risk here.

Configuring the Self Service Portal is very easy. Simply go to "Publish Software Packages".

🔿 Endpoint Central	Home Configurations Threats & I	Patches Software Deployment	Inventory OS Deploy	yment Mobile Device
<ul> <li>Package creation</li> </ul>	Publish software packages to the use	ers/computers and allow them to get	it installed by themselves.	
Packages				
Templates	Self Service Portal is supported	ed for both Windows and Mac OS.		
Deployment	1 Users with non-admin privile	ge can now install software from Self	Service Portal for Windows.	
Install/Uninstall Software	Choose to publish software, v	vhich requires approval for installatio	n. Th <mark>ese software requests w</mark>	ill be approved using Servi
View Configurations				
User-defined Templates				
Trash	+ Publish Software Packages 💌	Filter By: Types	*	
Self Service Portal	Computer	Туре	Created By	Creation Time
	🌲 User	🖵 Computer	janprem	02/03/2023 19:
' Reports				

Then select the group at the top or create a new one. Then simply select the software you want to make available in the lower area. I then complete the whole process with "Publish".

t the Custom Group *	64-Bit-Syster	ne	Create Custom Group
Available Software		Selected Software	
۹		Installs without approval	٩
📲 Adobe Reader XI (11.0.23)			
CCleaner (6.13.10517)			
CCleaner (6.14.10584)	$\longleftrightarrow$		0
CCleaner (6.15.10623)			
CCleaner (6.17.10746)		No Software Select	ed
CCleaner (6.18.10824)			
CCleaner (6.18.10838)			
e : Click here to configure Self Service Portal	Settings.		

88 Apps (7)	① Updates (0)						
Q 👻 Applikati		Alle Status		✓ Veröffentlic Alle	chungszeit -	onisierung: 03/15/2024	
Applikationsnam	•	Version	Anbieter	Beschreibung	Veröffentlichungszeit	Aktion	
🖵 Adobe Reade	er XI (11.0.23)	11.0.23	Adobe	Adobe Reader XI (11.0.23)	Mar 2, 2023 07:08 PM	A Installieren	
CCleaner (6.	21.10918)	6.21.10918	Piriform	CCleaner (6.21.10918)	Mar 13, 2024 08:17 AM	A Installieren	
🖵 Google Chro	me (x64) (122.0.62	122.0.6261.128	Google	Google Chrome (x64) (122.0.62	Mar 14, 2024 09:17 AM	ga Aktualisieren	
🖵 Mozilla Firef	ox (x64) (123.0.1)	123.0.1	Mozilla	Mozilla Firefox (x64) (123.0.1)	Mar 13, 2024 08:16 AM	曲 Installieren	
🖵 Notepad++ (	(64) (8.6.4)	8.6.4	Notepad	Notepad++ (x64) (8.6.4)	Mar 13, 2024 08:17 AM	📇 Installieren	
🖵 Opera Stable	(x64) (108.0.5067	108.0.5067.24	Opera	Opera Stable (x64) (108.0.5067	Mar 15, 2024 07:09 AM	A Installieren	
WinRAR (x64	t) (7.00)	7.00	win.rar GmbH	WinRAR (x64) (7.00)	Mar 13, 2024 08:16 AM	曲 Installieren	

On my test system, the Self Service Portal looks like this:

# 6. Closing words

I hope I have been able to give you an insight into the simplicity with which software can - and should - be distributed today. My preferred solution, Endpoint Central, offers a lot here. The templates give me a huge database of easy-to-create packages - without the need for extensive training or external consultants.

That's how it should be and how we love it 😊

# 7. About the Author

MCITP, MCTS, MCP, MOS, Enterprise Administrator, Senior Software Consultant, SCCM Specialist, Author, Coach, Reiki Teacher ...

Jürgen Rinelli was born in Germany in 1970. In his eventful and often adventurous life, he has lived and worked in many countries. Whether as a businessman, manager, mechanic, trainer, diver or IT expert, he always finds a way to pursue his dreams.

