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Software Virtualization Solution 2.0 SP 1 Release Notes

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Section 1 – Overview

1.1 Document Purpose

This document provides the “what’s new” and “known issues” information for the 2.0 SP 1 release of Software Virtualization Solution.

1.2 Background

Software Virtualization Solution (SVS) is a revolutionary approach to software management. By placing applications and data into managed units called Virtual Software Packages, Software Virtualization Solution allows you to instantly activate, deactivate or reset applications and to completely avoid conflicts between applications, without altering the base Windows installation.

1.3 Documentation

Product documentation is available in the Software Virtualization Solution Reference (softwarevirtualization.pdf and softwarevirtualization.chm). To view Altiris product documentation in .PDF format, use Adobe Acrobat Reader (available at: <http://www.adobe.com>).

Section 2 – Installation and Licensing

2.1 SVS 2.0 Installation

Installation and licensing information is provided in the Readme – Quick Install .pdf file (included in the solution zip file downloaded from the [Altiris Web Site](#)), in the [Altiris Getting Started Guide](#), and in the [Altiris Notification Server Product Guide](#).

2.1.1 Prerequisites for Software Virtualization Solution

- Altiris Notification Server 6.0 SP2 (build 5287) or later
- Software Virtualization Solution 6.0 installed on the Notification Server.
- A client computer running a supported Windows operating system.
- The Altiris Agent 6.0 installed on the client computer.

2.1.2 Prerequisites for Software Virtualization Agent

- A client computer running one of the following operating systems:
 - Windows 2000 Professional SP4 or higher
 - Windows 2000 Advanced Server SP4 or higher
 - Windows XP Professional SP1 or higher
 - Windows Server 2003 or higher
- Access to application setup files that you want to create layers for.

Section 3 – What's New in 2.0 SP1

3.1 Support for new WISE Package Studio tools

Wise Package Studio 7 will include new tools that support packaging and editing layers. APIs have been added to support these tools.

3.2 OnEvent actions support

- VSA files can now include files that can be called by OnEvent actions, such as OnPreActivate, OnPostActivate, and so forth.
- You can put a variable in the metadata. Within the OnEvent actions, you can reference the VZ_LAYER_METADIR variable to get this directory.

In HKLM\System\Altiris\FSL\1\OnPostActivate you can put the following:
w,%VZ_LAYER_METADIR%\myprogram.exe
%VZ_LAYER_METADIR%\another.exe

Section 4 – Fixes in 2.0 SP 1

4.1 Programs Menu is empty when using SVS and Novell Client together

When a user logs onto a computer using the Novell Client 32, the Start menu > Programs menu is empty. Using Explorer to view the File System also reveals that "<Username>'s Documents" is displayed as "%'s Documents". For more information, see Altiris Knowledgebase Article ID 20815.

4.2 In the Altiris Console, the Wizard and Tasks FlexGrid does not populate

Items are not being added to a table. A work around is available from Altiris Support.

4.3 SVS Agent sends events to Server when SVS Solution is not installed

If the SVS Agent was installed on a managed computer but the SVS Solution was not installed on the NS server, the data sent to the server would go into the "bad" folder.

4.4 Item contained in both sublayers running twice

If you had the same application, such as startup item, in both the read only and writeable sublayers, it would be launched twice. It will now only run once.

4.5 Applications installed by some versions of InstallShield were written to the base

If an application layer was created using an InstallShield setup file, the application was installed to the base rather than the layer. This only happens with installers that use the idriver install engine.

4.6 SVS data in the NS database was dropped during an SVS upgrade

When doing an SVS upgrade, SVS data in the NS database was deleted.

4.7 Unable to create an empty layer with more than 9 layers and at least one layer active

If a computer had more than 9 layers created, and at least one of those layers was active, you could not create a new empty layer.

Section 5 – Known Issues

5.1 SVS package distribution points are not being built properly

Notification Server-based software packages are defined as the contents of a given folder. If you want a VSA to be delivered as a single file, each VSA must be placed in its own folder. If you include more than one VSA file in a folder, then all the VSAs will be delivered together in the Software Delivery Package. This will cause additional network traffic and extra disk space used on client computers.

5.2 Fortress filter driver and running windows in safe mode

The SVS Fortress filter driver is not loaded when a computer is booted into Windows Safe Mode. Any diagnostic or recovery utilities that could be usable in safe mode to diagnose and recover a system should not be included in a layer. These utilities will not be available if they have been added to the system through a layer, thus possibly making it too late to recover after they become necessary.

5.3 Reboot required after agent install

After the SVS Agent is deployed and installed, the computer must be restarted for it to become active. One way to do this is to edit the Agent rollout task to prompt the user or to schedule a reboot.

5.4 Clean machine captures

We recommend that you build your Virtual Software Archive files on a clean machine. This is to ensure that all required files and registry settings end up in the package.

5.5 Agent uninstall removes installed virtual software packages

When the Agent uninstall is run, it deletes all VSPs. The uninstall will be enhanced to allow the user to specify whether this should happen or not.

5.6 Drive letters for non-system drives are not variablized

File changes made to drives other than the system drive show up under their drive letter.

5.7 Search and replace in SVS Admin not fully functional

5.8 Fonts in a layer are not available to the system

A utility is being developed to move fonts from the layer to the system.

5.9 A conflict with Recovery Solution agent requires an entry to ProgramIgnoreList registry key

On a separate line, add [_B_]PROGRAMFILES[_E_]\Altiris\Express\Client Recovery Agent\AeXRSAGt.exe to the ProgramIgnoreList value in the registry key HKLM\System\Altiris\FSL.

5.10 Intermittent crashes in Wininet.dll

In some instances, there may be a computer crash on wininet.dll.

5.11 Acrobat Reader update does not install correctly

If you have a layer containing Acrobat Reader 7.0 that is older than 7.0.5, and try to perform an update, the update does not install correctly.