



Version 2.0

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I. Introduction

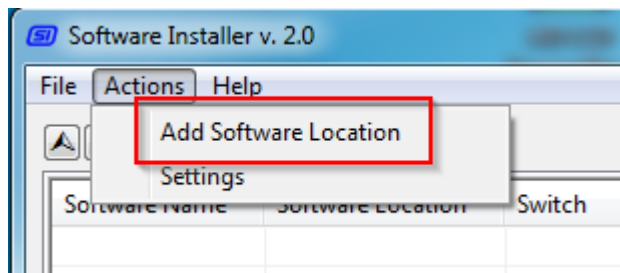
I used to work in I.T. and needed a method of installing a lot of software on new systems. I created Software Installer as a way to automate the task without having to click a hundred Next buttons.

The last couple versions of Software Installer (**SI**) included software category tabs, but organizing and managing everything got complicated. Starting with version 2.0, the categories are gone and the interface is a lot easier to use and understand. Also, the code is easier to follow and there's less of it. Version 1.2 had nearly 1,000 lines of code. Version 2.0 has less than 650 lines of code.

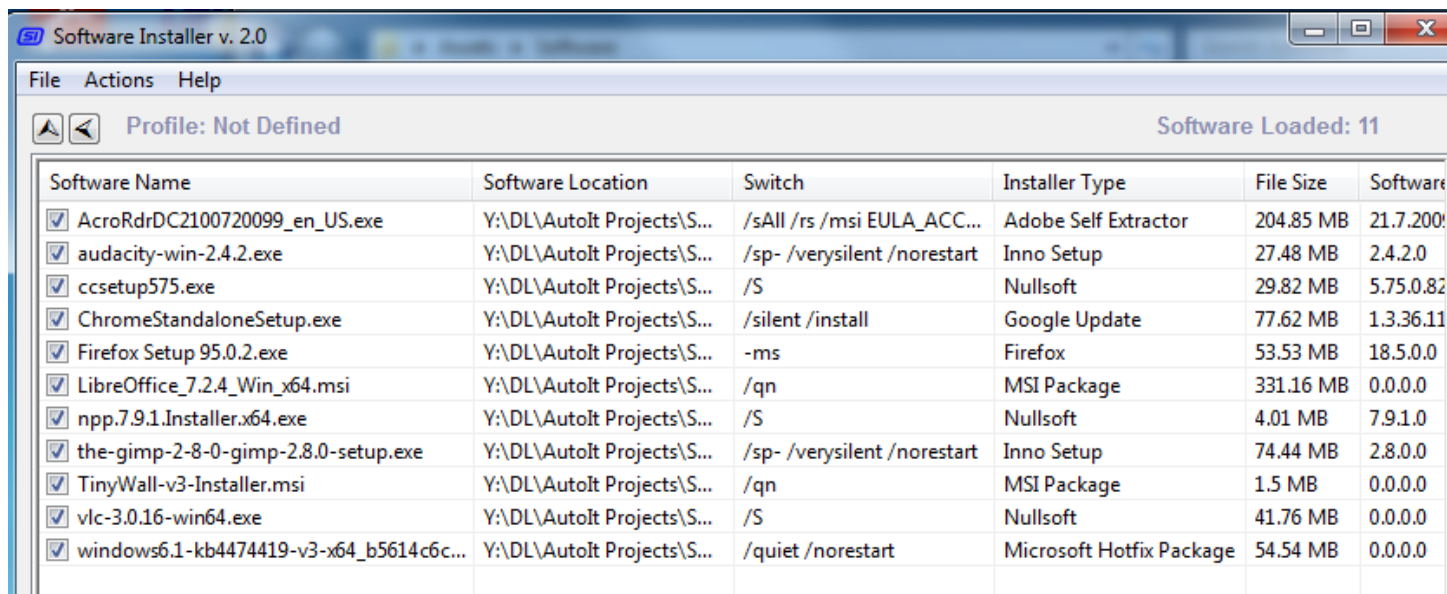
The script can run without any of the supporting folders (i.e., the Assets folder containing Misc, Profiles and Software folders). However, it is highly recommended to keep the Assets folder for organization and for supporting files (especially Installers.db). If you are reading this, you probably chose to keep the Assets folder, because the help file is in there.

II. Quick Start

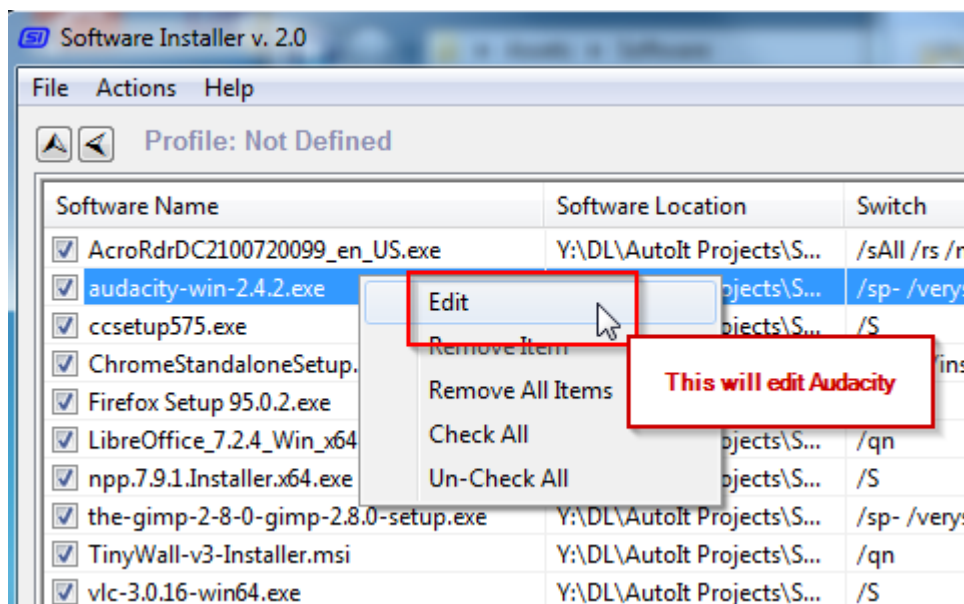
Software Installer (aka **SI**) is pretty intuitive. Basically, you will want to: add software, configure switches and install software. When you start Software Installer, you will see the Actions menu with Add Software Location as an option:



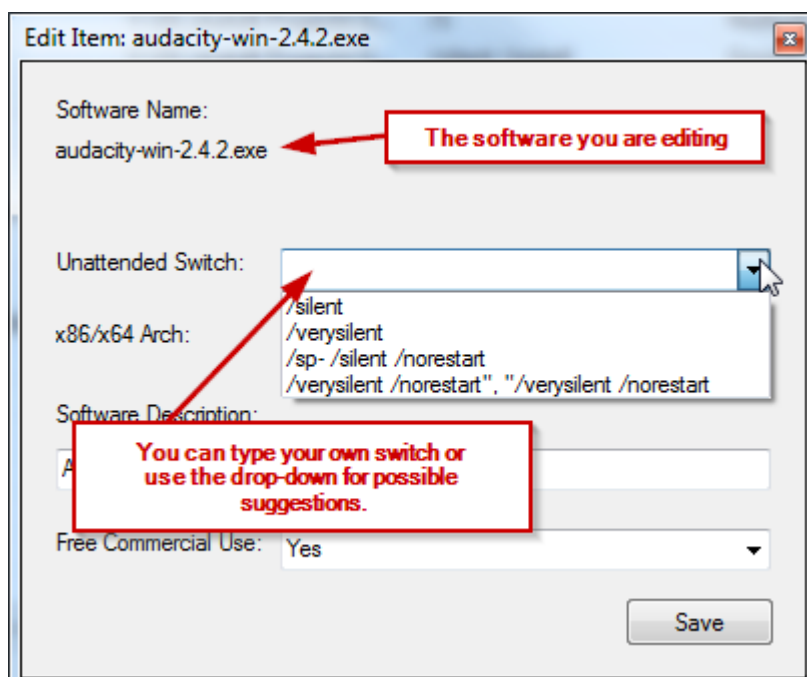
SI will scan the folder you specify for all .exe, msi and .msu (Microsoft update) files. **SI** will try to determine the best silent switch for each piece of software you have loaded into the listview. If one of the switches are blank, **SI** was not able to determine it automatically (if one even exists). In this case, you must do some research on your own. See the Troubleshooting section for advice on this subject. Here is the listview when I added a folder with standard software:



These were some of my testing software and some like Firefox, Chrome and Adobe Reader have specific switches defined in the Installers.db file. If you load an installer and no switch could be automatically detected, you can manually enter one by right-clicking the entry and go to Edit:



The box to edit will appear:



There are other parts that you can edit, but they are just for your own informational purposes. When you have your switch typed correctly, click the **Save** button.

When your software are all configured, simply click the *Install Software* button on the bottom corner:



III. Features

1. Add more software. You can add software from multiple locations. Simply go back to the *Actions > Add Software Location* to browse for another folder to add. If you add a software that appears to be a duplicate (same file name), it will not add a second copy; rather, it will update the *Software Location* to the newer software. The logic behind this is the newly loaded software is less likely to be a broken link (this will be discussed more in *Profiles*).

Software Name	Software Location
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AcroRdrDC2100720099_en_US.exe	Y:\DL\AutoIt Projects\Software Installer\Software Installer v. 2.0\Assets\Software\
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> audacity-win-2.4.2.exe	Y:\DL\AutoIt Projects\Software Installer\Software Installer v. 2.0\Assets\Software\
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ccsetup575.exe	Y:\DL\AutoIt Projects\Software Installer\Software\
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ChromeStandaloneSetup.exe	Y:\DL\AutoIt Projects\Software Installer\Software Installer v. 2.0\Assets\Software\
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LibreOffice_7.2.4_Win_x64.msi	Y:\DL\AutoIt Projects\Software Installer\Software Installer v. 2.0\Assets\Software\
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the-g	Y:\DL\AutoIt Projects\Software Installer\Software Installer v. 2.0\Assets\Software\
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tiny	Y:\DL\AutoIt Projects\Software Installer\Software Installer v. 2.0\Assets\Software\
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vlc-3	Y:\DL\AutoIt Projects\Software Installer\Software Installer v. 2.0\Assets\Software\
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 0.50a_eMule0.50a-Installer.exe	Y:\DL\AutoIt Projects\Software Installer\Software2\
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 7z1900.exe	Y:\DL\AutoIt Projects\Software Installer\Software2\
<input type="checkbox"/> AcroPro.msi	Y:\DL\AutoIt Projects\Software Installer\Software\Adobe Acrobat\
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 7z1900-x64.msi	Y:\DL\AutoIt Projects\Software Installer\Software2\
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 7z1900.msi	Y:\DL\AutoIt Projects\Software Installer\Software2\

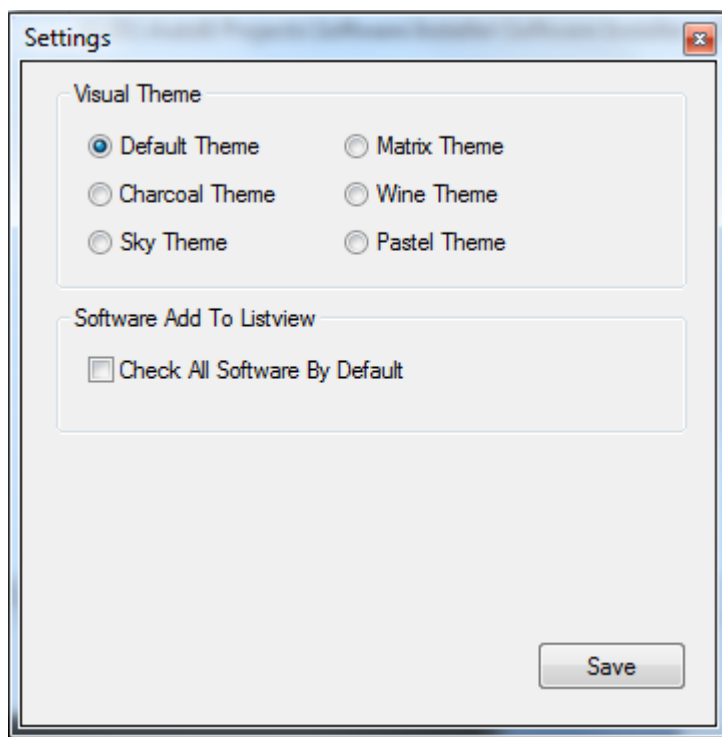
Multiple software locations

2. Right-click menu. From this menu, you can edit an item's properties, delete an item, delete all items, check or un-check all items.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ccsetup575.exe	Y:\DL\AutoIt Proje
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ChromeStandaloneSetup.exe	Y:\DL\AutoIt Proje
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LibreOffice_7.2.4_Wi	Y:\DL\AutoIt Proje
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the-gimp-2-8-0-gim	Y:\DL\AutoIt Proje
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TinyWall-v3-Installer	Y:\DL\AutoIt Proje
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vlc-3.0.16-win64.exe	Y:\DL\AutoIt Proje
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 0.50a_eMule0.50a-In	Y:\DL\AutoIt Proje
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 7z1900.exe	Y:\DL\AutoIt Proje
<input type="checkbox"/> AcroPro.msi	Y:\DL\AutoIt Proje
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 7z1900-x64 msi	Y:\DL\AutoIt Proje

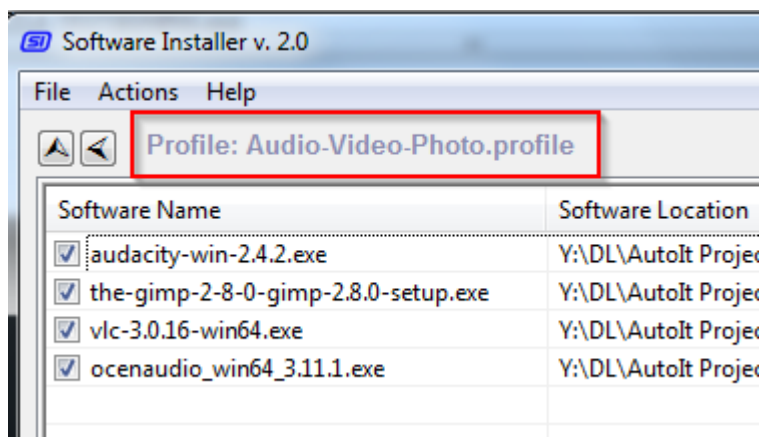
3. Change install order. Files are added in alpha-numeric order. If you add more items, they are added to the end of the list. If you need software to install in a particular order, simply drag & drop the item(s) to the locations you need. Items install in order from the top down.

4. Settings. When you go to *Actions > Settings*, you have two groups: Visual Theme and Software Add To Listview. The themes section currently has six from which to choose. The themes are basically just colors for the GUI background, listview background and Listview text colors. The theme also extends to the install screen and *About* box. The group Software Add To Listview has only one checkbox and it specifies when you add a folder to search for software, does it put checkmarks beside them or not.

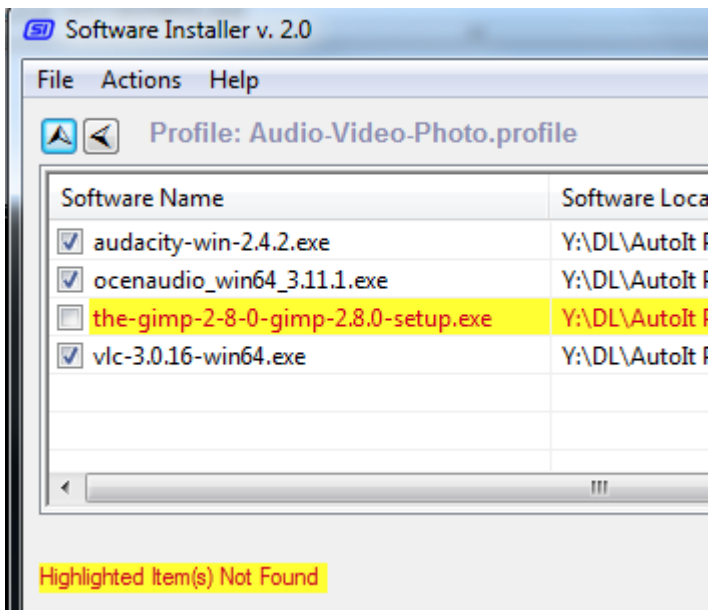


5. Profiles. Under the *File* menu, you have two profile options: *Open Profile* and *Save Profile*.

To create a profile, load the software you want for a specific purpose (like your main computer, a basic work computer, one with essential software, one with only open-source freeware, etc.). Configure the software switches, adjust the order you want them installed, etc. You do not need to have check marks on all software. When your list is ready, go to *File > Save Profile* and simply save it with any name you want (avoid non-alphanumeric characters). In this example, I named this profile Audio-Video-Photo. The .profile extension is added automatically. Note that the profile has changed from Not Defined to Audio-Video-Photo:



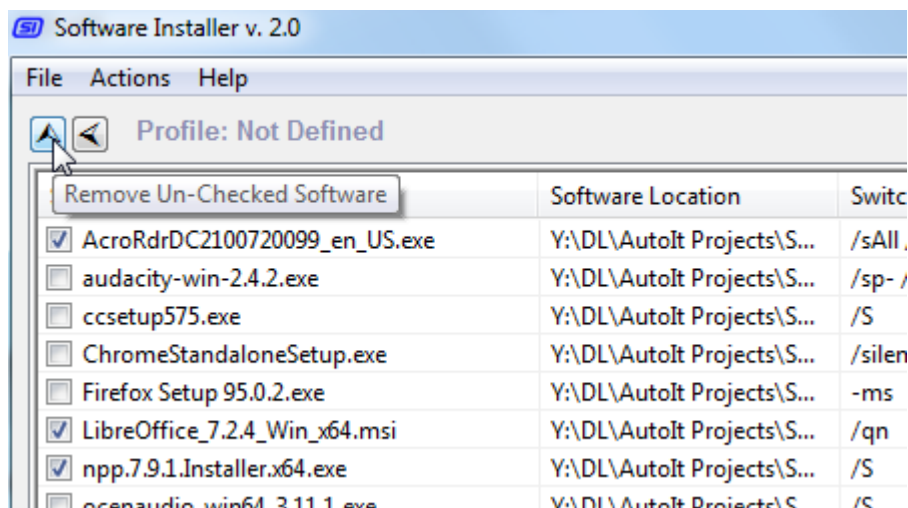
To open a profile, go to *File > Open Profile*. Note: if you already have software in your listview or a profile is already open, you will not be prompted to save your work. When you select a profile, it should open just as you saved it previously. On the next screen shot, I have purposely removed the Gimp software. It gets highlighted in yellow as such:



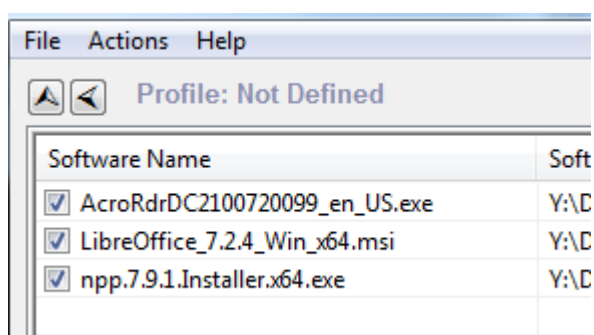
In this case, the **software will become un-checked** so there will be no attempt to install it. If you add a software location that contains the software, the item color will go back to normal (and the software location will get updated).

6. GUI resizing. Starting with **SI/** v. 2.0., you can now enlarge/shrink the GUI. When you exit, the size and location of the window are saved (along with your choice of theme).

7. Remove Un-Checked Software. In the screenshot below, simply press the up arrow button to remove all software that is unchecked.

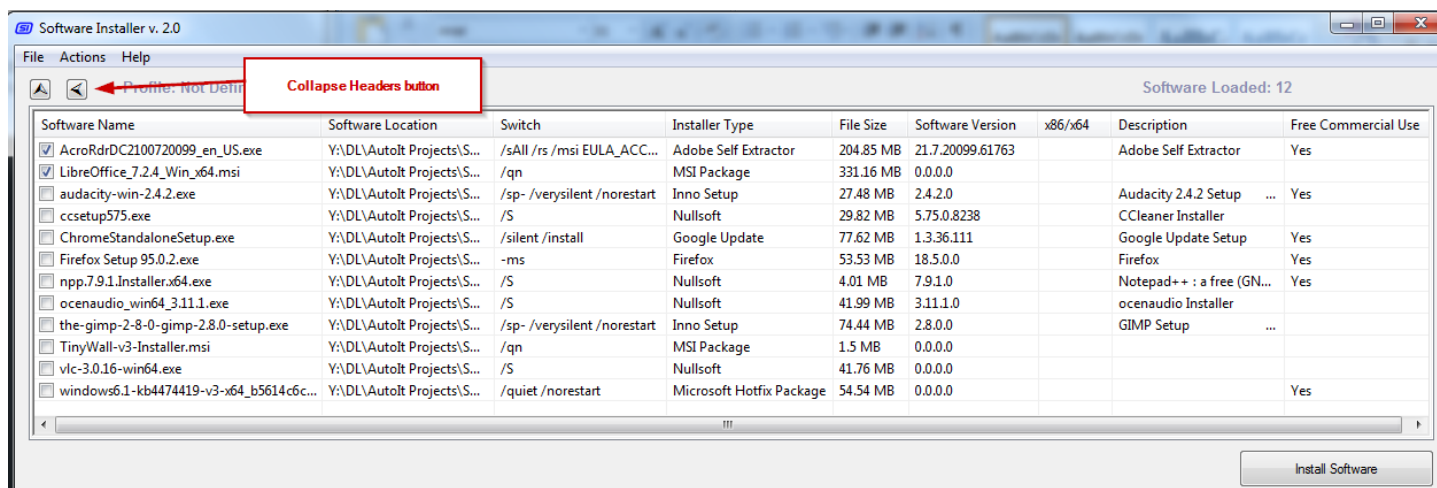


Becomes:

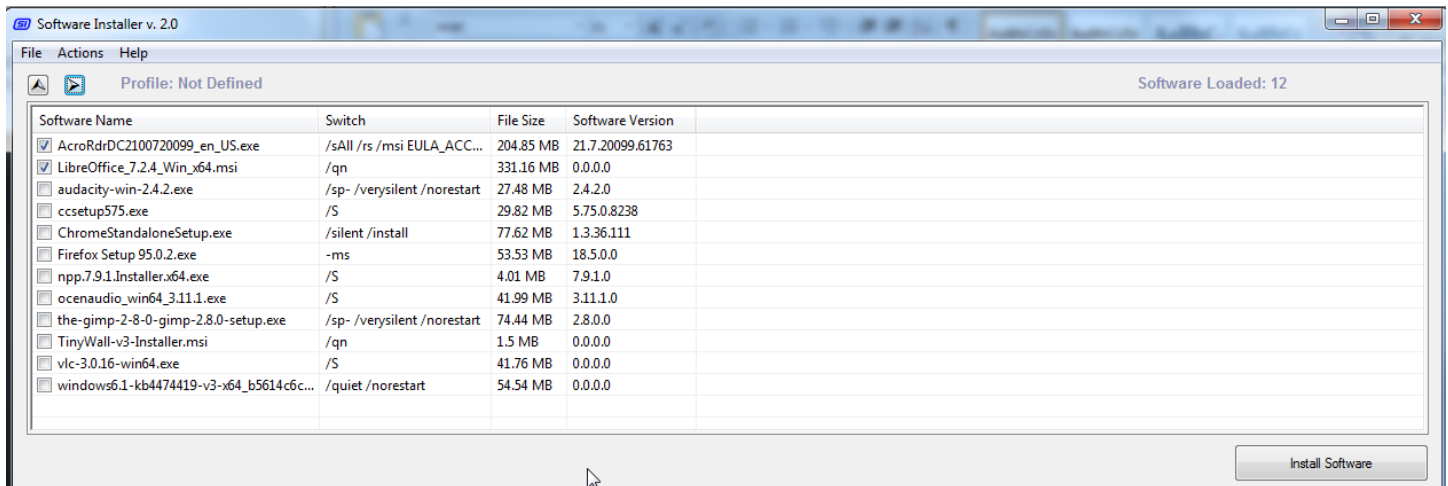


8. Collapse / Expand headers. If you find there is too much info on the screen by default, you can hide some of the information by clicking the button that has an arrow pointing to the left. Examples:

Before:



After:



In the After photo, several column headers have been hidden. To see them again, click the same button which now shows an arrow pointing to the right.

IV. Troubleshooting

If a software does not install, check compatibility issues and requirements such as: OS version/architecture support, service pack and hotfix requirements, whether a specific version of DotNet is required, etc.

In testing this project, I tried to install Ccleaner on Windows XP. Installation failed, so I tried to start the installer manually and the installer did not seem to start. A quick search told me that version 5.64 is the last version they supported under Win XP. I downloaded an older version of the software, and it installed correctly. Unlike the Ccleaner installer I tried, a lot of installers tell you that your OS is not supported. **So if silent install fails, run the installer manually and see what kind of errors you encounter.**

For a while, I had trouble installing the latest version of Adobe Reader. I finally got it working with the switch: `/sAll /rs /msi EULA_ACCEPT=YES`. However, while trying to get the correct switch working, I found out you can use command line to extract the contents of the executable installer, which contains several files that are actually an MSI installer. Here's the command I used to extract them: `AcroRdrDC2100720099_en_US.exe -sfx_o"C:\temp" -sfx_ne`. Adobe Reader installed just fine with the correct switch and with the MSI extracted files.

If you are still having trouble with a particular software, you can try:

- Search for the software name with keywords "silent install", "unattended install" and "silent switches".
- Search for .msi versions of the software installer.
- Contact the software developer and ask if their software supports silent or unattended switches.
- If a portable version of the software is available, you could create your own installer with Inno Setup or a similar software installer packager. Check with the software developer to find out if they allow this and what their requirements would be. For open-source software, this can be as simple as giving credit to them and linking to their website.
- Open command line (or create a .bat file) and run the installer with a `/?` or `?`. Some software will display help information and/or silent install options.
- Look up a program called Universal Silent Switch Finder (USSF). It might be able to find some switches this script cannot.
- Go brute force. Lastly, you can just try lots of switches such as `/s`, `/S`, `-silent`, `/silent`, `/quiet`, etc.

In a couple rare cases, I have come across some individuals who have repackaged software for the purpose of silent installs. They appear to work, but you have no idea what could be hidden in their installers. I do NOT advise using such software. Repackage it yourself, if you are able to.

If you have trouble with SI or questions concerning silent/unattended installs, you may ask on the forum where this software is hosted. However, this is just a hobby and I am not an expert on such matters. You can post your questions, comments and suggestions there.

[Software Installer on Autolt's forum](#)

V. Changelog

Version 2.0 (12/19/2021) [This Version]:

- Completely new version, including new GUI interface and new coding from scratch
- When software is added to list, **SI** automatically attempts to determine the silent switch.
- You can re-arrange software install order by dragging and dropping the software where you want on the list.
- You can right-click items to edit, delete, set checkmarks, etc.
- Profiles can be created to save specific configurations of sets of software.
- Six color themes now available.
- Resizable GUI and it's settings are saved when you exit.
- Button to easily delete all un-checked software and a button to collapse/expand some columns of information.
- Branding update. New logos new icons created from scratch.
- A compiled executable can accept a profile as a parameter to allow it to load a profile from command line, dragging & dropping it on the executable or if you associate .profile files with the .exe, they will open the profile in the program. This was not detailed in the documentation, but if you need this functionality, you can probably figure it out.

Version 1.2 (01/01/2021):

- Added this changelog for the current version and previous ones.
- Fixed several bugs from the rewrite, including 7-Zip installation problems.
- *Option added: **Detect*** (the installer type). Click this button to detect what installer was used to create it. Also included is an Installers.db file for non-standard installers. If the installer type is detected, the best switch for it is set automatically.
- *Option added: **Run Pre-Install and Post-Install Software***: It has been brought to my attention you may need to install something like DotNet 4.0 before installing your software or applying a registry key after installation. This has been addressed with the addition of "Pre-Install/Post-Install Software" option when you are editing the configuration of a software. When you check this checkbox, you will be given a button to specify up to 4 software/registry installations related to your selected software (including silent switches and switch detection buttons). You have the option of installing two .exe/.msi files **before** selected software installation and two .exe/.msi/.reg/.key files **after** installation of the selected software.
- Added checks to make sure you want to leave a configuration window without saving your data.
- This version searches for all subfolders now and shows .exe and .msi files that you may not want to see on the main screen. Therefore, I have added the option to "Hide This Item On Main GUI".
- *Option added: **Hide This Item On Main GUI***: This version now looks into sub-folders for .exe and .msi files (you can now create folders to organize your software), but this may show more .msi and .exe files you want displayed on your main GUI. Now you can choose to not display them on the main page.

Version 1.1 (11/06/2020):

- Pretty much a total re-write of code to add new options and fix problems, but keep the same feel of the original script.
- When you add software to the Software folder (you need to create this folder in the same directory as your script), you will get prompted to configure the software. If you say yes, it will bring up a form where you can type up a display name for the software (instead of the installer name. Ex: 7z1900-x64.msi can be displayed as 7-Zip), the switch to use, software description and what category tab you want it to appear in. This feature creates and updates an INI file for you, so you don't have to do it manually.
- While configuring your software, there is a drop-down menu with installer types (Inno, NSIS, MSI, Installshield, Wise, etc). If you know the installer type, it narrows down the switches in the Switch drop-down menu to only show switches for that installer type. If none of the switches are what you need (ex: Firefox uses -ms), just manually type the needed switch in the Switch drop-down menu.
- By default, only unconfigured software shows up in the Configure Software menu. There is a checkbox to show all software, where you can double-click the software and modify its data.
- There is an option to edit the order in which the software is installed. If selected, a form will pop up after you press the Install Selected Software button and before the installation begins. On this form, you can select software installers and move them up and down in the list.

Version 1.0 (08/27/2012)

- Initial version, had some bugs and code was not kept up for about 8 years. Sorry for that.