

Installing a Windows Service

The installation of a Windows service varies in complexity with the needs of the application, but usually involves the following activities:

- Selecting the user account in which the service will run.
- Registering the service and establishing its activation mode and dependencies.
- Creating one or more file system directories to contain executables, libraries, and supporting files or databases.
- Configuring those directories with appropriate permissions so that they are accessible to the user account selected for the service.
- Creating keys in the Windows registry.
- Configuring the Windows Event Log so that the service can report status and error messages.

There are many ways to perform these tasks. For example, an administrator can [execute them manually](#). Another option is to write a script or program tailored to the needs of your application. Finally, you can build an installer using a developer tool such as InstallShield.

Selecting a User Account for the Service

Before installing a service, you should give careful consideration to the user account that will run the service. Unless your service has special requirements, we recommend that you use the built-in account that Windows provides specifically for this purpose. On Windows XP and Windows Server 2003, the fully-qualified name for this account is `NT Authority\LocalService`; in an English locale, its name is displayed as `Local Service`. On Windows Vista (or later), the account name is simply `Local Service`.

See Also

- [Manually Installing a Service](#)