WPKG in 20 Minutes

Third Party Updates for Sysadmins

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The Inspiration
What is WPKG?

A lightweight infrastructure to install profiles of packages on hosts.
Goals

- Keep third party software up to date without end user intervention.
- Make updates easy and quick.
- Stay legal.
- Be flexible: staff, labs, Computer Recycling.
What you need

- A (read-only) Windows share
- A repository of software ("warez")
- profiles.xml, hosts.xml
- Associated XML package files
Specifying Packages

You need to specify:

- The package ID
- A version string
- How to identify whether the package is installed
- How to silently install/upgrade/remove the package
WPKG: Powerful and Insecure

- No host checking!
- No package integrity checking!
- Windows share is visible to the world!
Other Thoughts

- Implement host checking with SSH.
- WPKG is a bad idea for one-off installs (eg Computer Recycling)
Resources

http://wpkg.org (lots of recipes!)

http://nirsoft.net

http://ninite.com

https://www.autoitscript.com/site/autoit/
The End

Comments? Questions?
Not actually The End

Tips and Tricks
Calling WPKG

For lab machines: scheduled task once a week.

For installer: during install.

For staff machines: Run shutdown task via Group Policy (and adjust timeouts accordingly)
Troubleshooting

Install strings:

HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Uninstall
More Troubleshooting

Install state:
c:\windows\system32\wpkg.xml

Verbose logs:
%TEMP%\wpkg-<hostname>.log
Delete Programs Easily

wmic product where "name like 'Java%%'" call uninstall /nointeractive
Registry edits

regedit /s
"%SOFTWARE%\WSUSServer\set-wsus-server.reg"

This turns WPKG into (some of) Group Policy!
Links and Icons

nircmd.exe shortcut
"%PROGDIR%\Microsoft Games\Minesweeper\Minesweeper.exe"
"%destdir%" "Minesweeper"

nircmd.exe execmd del
"%PUBLIC%\Desktop\Sage 50.lnk"
No silent installer?

Write an AutoIT script.