Recast

Launch Universal Windows Platform apps with PowerShell

Last Modified on 2026-09-24

We get many questions about how to launch provisioned Universal Windows Platform apps from within Application Workspace.

UWP apps are designed to work across platforms and can be installed on multiple ones including Windows client, Windows Phone, and Xbox. All UWP apps are also Windows apps, but not all Windows apps are UWP apps.

Appx is Microsoft's file format used to distribute and install these apps on the Universal Windows Platform. Appx is a .ZIP–based file containing the app's payload files plus info needed to validate, deploy, manage, and update the app.

Some Windows apps are already provisioned in Windows by default. To find out how you can use Windows PowerShell to identify all these provisioned apps, see Overview of apps on Windows client devices | Microsoft Learn

In this article, we will use a common app, Snip & Sketch, as an example.

Retrieve PackageFamilyName and App ID using PowerShell

You can use PowerShell to find all the details about Snip & Sketch needed to create a Launch type package in the Application Workspace.

Use the `Get-AppxPackage` cmdlet to list information about the Appx package only:

```
Get-AppxPackage | Where {$_.Name -match 'ScreenSketch'}
```

Then look at three properties: **Name**, **InstallLocation** and **PackageFamilyName**.

```
Name              : Microsoft.ScreenSketch
Publisher         : CN=Microsoft Corporation, O=Microsoft Corporation, L=Redmond, S=Washington, C=US
Architecture      : X64
ResourceId        :
Version           : 11.2407.3.0
PackageFullName   : Microsoft.ScreenSketch_11.2407.3.0_x64__8wekyb3d8bbwe
InstallLocation   : C:\Program Files\WindowsApps\Microsoft.ScreenSketch_11.2407.3.0_x64__8wekyb3d8bbwe
IsFramework       : False
PackageFamilyName : Microsoft.ScreenSketch_8wekyb3d8bbwe
PublisherId       : 8wekyb3d8bbwe
IsResourcePackage : False
IsBundle          : False
IsDevelopmentMode : False
NonRemovable      : False
Dependencies      : {Microsoft.UI.Xaml.2.8_8.2310.30001.0_x64__8wekyb3d8bbwe, Microsoft.WindowsAppRuntime.1.5_5001.214.1843.0_x64__8wekyb3d8bbwe,
                    Microsoft.VCLibs.140.00_14.0.33519.0_x64__8wekyb3d8bbwe, Microsoft.VCLibs.140.00.UWPDesktop_14.0.33728.0_x64__8wekyb3d8bbwe...}
IsPartiallyStaged : False
SignatureKind     : Store
Status            : Ok
```

- **Name**: Check the name to make sure you are looking at the details for the correct app.
- **InstallLocation**: This is where you will find the `AppxManifest.xml` file which contains the info the system needs to deploy, display, or update this Windows app. Within it, you'll see the ID of the app.

  You can also retrieve the app's ID by running:

  ```
  (Get-AppxPackage | Where {$_.Name -match 'ScreenSketch'} | Get-AppxPackageManifest).package.application
  s.application.id
  ```

- **PackageFamilyName**: This tells `explorer.exe` to launch the app. To launch Snip & Sketch using `explorer.exe`

successfully, add the "!App" string which is the ID value found in the `AppxManifest.xml`.

Script

```
# Import the Liquit Workspace module from its default location
$moduleName = "Liquit.Server.PowerShell"
$moduleInstalled = Get-Module -ListAvailable | Where-Object { $_.Name -eq $moduleName }

if ($moduleInstalled) {
    Write-Host "The '$moduleName' module is already installed." -NoNewLine -ForegroundColor green
    Import-Module -Name "Liquit.Server.PowerShell"
    Write-Host ""
} else {
    Write-Host "The '$moduleName' module is not installed. Please install the Application Workspace PowerShell Modul
e" -NoNewLine -ForegroundColor yellow
}

Add-Type -AssemblyName System.Windows.Forms
Add-Type -AssemblyName System.Drawing

# Define all Liquit-related variables
$url = $(Write-Host "Type Liquit Zone Url: " -NoNewLine -ForegroundColor green; Read-Host)
$usr = $(Write-Host "Please enter the Username (For example: local\admin): " -NoNewLine -ForegroundColor green; R
ead-Host)
$password = $(Write-Host "Please enter the Password: " -NoNewLine -ForegroundColor green; Read-Host -AsSecureSt
ring)
$Credentials = New-Object System.Management.Automation.PSCredential $usr,$password

Connect-LiquitWorkspace -URI "$url" -Credential $credentials

# Define the form parameters
$form = New-Object System.Windows.Forms.Form
$form.Text = 'Provisioned Windows Apps'
$form.Size = New-Object System.Drawing.Size(300,675)
$form.StartPosition = 'CenterScreen'
$form.MinimumSize = New-Object System.Drawing.Size(300,675)

$OKButton = New-Object System.Windows.Forms.Button
$OKButton.Location = New-Object System.Drawing.Point(120,550)
$OKButton.Size = New-Object System.Drawing.Size(75,25)
$OKButton.Text = 'OK'
$OKButton.DialogResult = [System.Windows.Forms.DialogResult]::OK
$OKButton.Anchor = [System.Windows.Forms.AnchorStyles]::Bottom -bor
                   [System.Windows.Forms.AnchorStyles]::Right
$form.AcceptButton = $OKButton
$form.Controls.Add($OKButton)

$CancelButton = New-Object System.Windows.Forms.Button
$CancelButton.Location = New-Object System.Drawing.Point(195,550)
$CancelButton.Size = New-Object System.Drawing.Size(75,25)
$CancelButton.Text = 'Cancel'
$CancelButton.DialogResult = [System.Windows.Forms.DialogResult]::Cancel
$CancelButton.Anchor = [System.Windows.Forms.AnchorStyles]::Bottom -bor
                       [System.Windows.Forms.AnchorStyles]::Right
$form.CancelButton = $CancelButton
$form.Controls.Add($CancelButton)

$label = New-Object System.Windows.Forms.Label
$label.Location = New-Object System.Drawing.Point(10,20)
$label.Size = New-Object System.Drawing.Size(280,20)
```

```
$label.Text = 'Select a Provisioned Windows app:'
$form.Controls.Add($label)

$listBox = New-Object System.Windows.Forms.ListBox
$listBox.Location = New-Object System.Drawing.Point(10,40)
$listBox.Size = New-Object System.Drawing.Size(260,940)
$listBox.Height = 500
$listBox.Anchor = [System.Windows.Forms.AnchorStyles]::Bottom -bor
                  [System.Windows.Forms.AnchorStyles]::Top -bor
                  [System.Windows.Forms.AnchorStyles]::Left -bor
                  [System.Windows.Forms.AnchorStyles]::Right

[void] $listBox.Items.Add('HEIF Image Extensions')
[void] $listBox.Items.Add('Clipchamp')
[void] $listBox.Items.Add('Microsoft Paint')
[void] $listBox.Items.Add('Snip & Sketch')

$form.Controls.Add($listBox)
$form.Topmost = $true

# Show the form
$result = $form.ShowDialog()

if ($result -eq [System.Windows.Forms.DialogResult]::OK)
{
   $packageName = $listBox.SelectedItem

   if ($packageName -eq "Microsoft Paint")
   {
      $selectedAppxPackagename = "Microsoft.Paint"
   }

   elseif ($packageName -eq "Snip & Sketch")
   {
      $selectedAppxPackagename = "Microsoft.ScreenSketch"
   }

   elseif ($packageName -eq "Clipchamp")
   {
      $selectedAppxPackagename = "Clipchamp.Clipchamp"
   }

   elseif ($packageName -eq "HEIF Image Extensions")
   {
      $selectedAppxPackagename = "Microsoft.HEIFImageExtension"
   }

   # Fetch all Appx packages
   $AppxPackages = Get-AppxPackage |  Where-Object {$_.Name -match $selectedAppxPackagename}

   foreach ($AppxPackage in $AppxPackages)
   {
      $packageArguments = "$($AppxPackage.PackageFamilyName + "!App")"
      $packageDisplayName = ""
      $packageDescription = ""

      $package = New-LiquitPackage -Name $packageName `
                           -Type "Launch" `
                           -DisplayName $packageDisplayName `
                           -Description $packageDescription `
                           -Priority 100 -Enabled $true `
                           -Offline $True `
                           -Web $false `
```

```
                            -Icon $content
        $snapshot = New-LiquitPackageSnapshot -Package $package
        New-LiquitFilterSet -Snapshot $snapshot

 # Define the Launch action set
        $actionset = New-LiquitActionSet -snapshot $snapshot `
                                -Type Launch `
                                -name 'Launch' `
                                -Enabled $true `
                                -Frequency Always `
                                -Process Sequential `

 # Define actions for the Launch action set
 New-LiquitAction -ActionSet $actionset `
                        -Name 'Start Windows app' `
                        -Type 'processstart' `
                        -Enabled $true `
                        -IgnoreErrors $false `
                        -Settings @{name = '${SystemRoot}explorer.exe'; parameters ='shell:Appsfolder' + $packageArgu
ments;} `
                        -Context User


  # Move the snapshot into the production stage
        Publish-LiquitPackageSnapshot -Snapshot $snapshot -stage Production
    }
 }
```