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App Settings

Last Modified on 2026-10-19

App Settings Overview

Using the App Settings feature, Application Workspace administrators can choose application preferences that will automatically follow end users across sessions and devices. End users will get a consistent experience, without any interruption or the need to reconfigure settings that previously reverted to defaults.

As an administrator, you can:

- Define which application settings to capture and restore for end users
- Link a single App Settings entry to one or multiple packages
- Track which packages have App Settings applied on the **Auditing** and **Packages** pages

Licensing Requirement: The App Settings feature is available to Application Workspace customers licensed for Access Manager.

> **Current App Settings Limitations**
>
> - To retain application preferences correctly, end users must launch the application using the Application Workspace Smart Icon.
> - Application Workspace captures and restores all app settings once each session, rather than only changes since the previous session.
> - This feature is currently supported on Windows devices only.
> - This feature is not currently supported on Distributed File Systems (DFS).
> - The `HKCU\Software\<App>` setting does not currently work correctly (as opposed to `HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\<App>`, which functions as expected). The next release of Application Workspace will add support for `HKCU\Software\<App>`.

App Settings System Permissions

If the Application Workspace service runs under the Local System account, no additional permissions are required as these settings and files are always in the user's own profile locations.

If the service runs under any other account (domain user, local user, Group Managed Service Account (gMSA), virtual account, LocalService/NetworkService, etc.), make sure both the Application Workspace service and the signed-in user have permission to modify the registry keys, files/folders, and the storage location you specify.

The App Settings Restore function runs in the context of the Agent service. Also, the user session does not write directly to (blob) storage: the Agent uploads the captured data to the server, and the server then copies it to blob storage (if applicable).

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Administrator Access Policy Privileges

For the App Settings feature, the administrator access policy includes the following privileges:

- Create app settings
- View app settings
- Modify app settings
- Remove app settings

- Add app settings content
- View app settings content
- Modify app settings content
- Remove app settings content

By default, the user access policy has permission to upload app settings to the Application Workspace Server.

App Settings Data Storage

You can choose to store App Settings data using one of two server-side storage types:

- **Azure Blob** – recommended for fast/global performance; the Application Workspace Agent can have direct access to the content, reducing the load on servers.
- **Network Share** – recommended for on-premises Application Workspace systems; offers complete control over the data.

To configure App Settings storage, navigate to **Manage** > **System** > **Storage Settings** and click on the **App Settings** tab.

Azure Blob Storage Options

- **Tier** – The access tier your blob data has after uploading. Files are kept in **Hot** storage because they are volatile, resulting in a lower cost for storing your app settings.
- **Authentication method** – Used for accessing the Azure Blob service.
  - Shared Key (SK): A storage account wide access key.
- **Connection string** – Only available for the SK authentication method. The connection string can be found in the Azure portal under **Storage accounts** > [your account name] > **Access keys**.
- **Container** – The name of the Azure Blob container where all the files are stored.
- **Direct Access authentication method** – Available option:
  - Public access – No tokens are required to access the data.
- **Direct Access CDN Endpoint** – The URL of the Azure Content Delivery Network endpoint. Use a CDN that has been configured in front of the Azure Blob services. Content will be distributed globally using a CDN provider. This allows the web browser/agent to download content directly from a server that's near the local device, which improves content distribution times.

  For more information on enabling CDN, see Integrate an Azure Storage account with Azure Content Delivery Network | Microsoft Learn

Network Share Storage Options

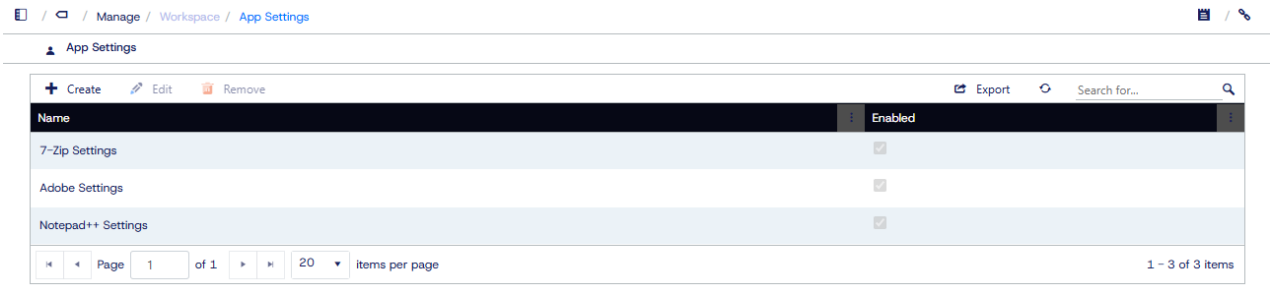
- **Path** – network directory where the content is stored; must be accessible by all Application Workspace servers.
- **Credentials** – used by Application Workspace to modify the shared content.

  Credentials can be configured under **Manage** > **Authentication** > **Credential Store**. We recommend following Microsoft's guidelines for configuring share and NTFS permissions.

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View App Settings

The **App Settings** page displays all the end user application settings that are being captured and whether they are enabled.



Selecting multiple table rows

- Adjacent rows: Click on the first row, hold down the Shift key, click on the last row in the range
- Non-adjacent rows: Hold the Ctrl or Cmd key and click on each row you want to select
- Adjacent rows, using only the mouse: Click and hold the left mouse button on the first row, then drag the cursor up or down across the rows to highlight the desired ones

Toolbar options

- Create App Settings
- Edit
- **Remove** – Remove the app settings item from Application Workspace.
- Export
- **Views** – The default view shows app settings in alphabetical order.

View App Settings Details

To view details for an App Setting, double-click on its entry in the table.

Overview tab

- App Setting **Name**
- whether the App Setting is **Enabled**

Contents tab

- App Settings **Type**
- **Value** entered
- whether the App Setting is **Enabled**
- **Supported platforms** – Windows only at the moment

Dependencies tab

Displays the packages where the App Setting applies, including the package **Type** and **Snapshot**.

Events tab

Displays in-depth details about the captured item, such as its **Type**, **Status**, **Identity**, and **Device**. This information tells you how many items were captured and restored.

Auditing tab

Displays App Settings-related changes, which also appear on the **Auditing** page.

Create App Settings

You can create an app settings entry, and add include or exclude items from it, using the Application Workspace interface or App Settings cmdlets in the PowerShell Module.

Create an App Settings Entry

To create new app settings:

1. On the **App Settings** page, click the **Create** button in the table toolbar.

2. In the **Create app settings** > **Overview**, give your new app settings a **Name.** By default, the app settings are **Enabled**. Click **Next**.

3. On the **Summary** tab, confirm the app settings name, as well as whether they are **Enabled** or whether you can **Modify app settings after creation**. Click **Finish**.

*The **App Settings** details page will open automatically.*

> BEST PRACTICE
> We recommend defining a new App Settings entry for each application, as this makes it easier to manage the captured and restored data over time.
> You can link a single App Settings entry to multiple packages (for example, different language variants of the same application) to apply identical settings wherever the application is deployed.

Include an Item in App Settings

To include a new item in the app settings captured for end users:

1. On the **App settings** details page, open the **Contents** tab and click **Create included item** in the table toolbar.

2. In the **Create included item** window that opens, choose the **Type** of information you want to capture and restore.

App Settings Types:

- Registry Tree – Syncs all the keys in an entire registry tree recursively.
    - Registry Key – Syncs all the keys in a registry key, but not those contained in subdirectories.

        - Registry Value – Syncs a defined registry value

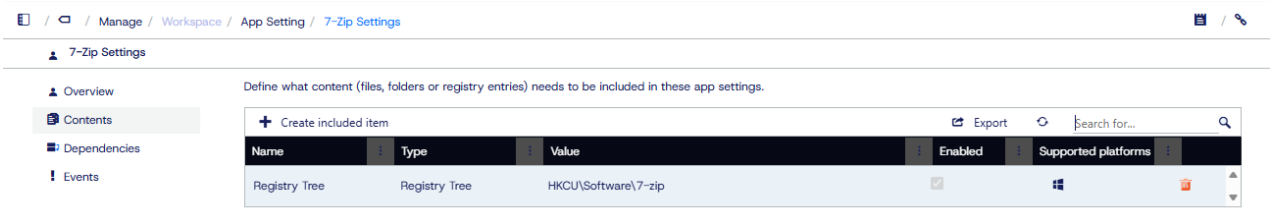
- Folder Tree – Syncs the entire directory on the file system recursively
    - Folder – Syncs a defined directory but not its subdirectories
        - File – Syncs a defined file

3. **Name** the item and enter its **Value**.

> **Wildcard Support**
> An upcoming release will add support for wildcards in folder/file paths, meaning that you'll be able to capture and restore App Settings across varying file structures without needing to define every path exactly.

By default, Application Workspace will **Delete existing content before restore** to create a clean slate for the app settings.

4. Click **Confirm**. The included item will display on the **App Setting** > **Contents** tab.



Exclude an Item from App Settings

This functionality is useful for leaving out an item such as a backup folder.

To exclude an item from the app settings captured for end users:

1. On the **App settings** details page's **Contents** tab and click **Create excluded item** in the table toolbar.

2. In the **Create excluded item** window that opens, choose the **Type** of information you do not want to capture and restore.

App Settings Types:

- Registry Tree – Syncs all the keys in an entire registry tree recursively.
    - Registry Key – Syncs all the keys in a registry key, but not those contained in subdirectories.
        - Registry Value – Syncs a defined registry value

- Folder Tree – Syncs the entire directory on the file system recursively
    - Folder – Syncs a defined directory but not its subdirectories
        - File – Syncs a defined file

3. **Name** the item and enter its **Value**. Click **Confirm**.

4. **Save** your changes.

> If the device shuts down or the process is interrupted before capture or restore completes, data may be incomplete or corrupted.

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Link App Settings to a Package

App Settings are applied automatically when a package is deployed. Capture and restore functions run silently in the background, without interrupting users or showing pop-ups.

You can apply App Settings to all package types.

You can link a single App Settings entry to multiple packages and/or link multiple App Settings entries to a single package.

To link an App Settings entry to a package:

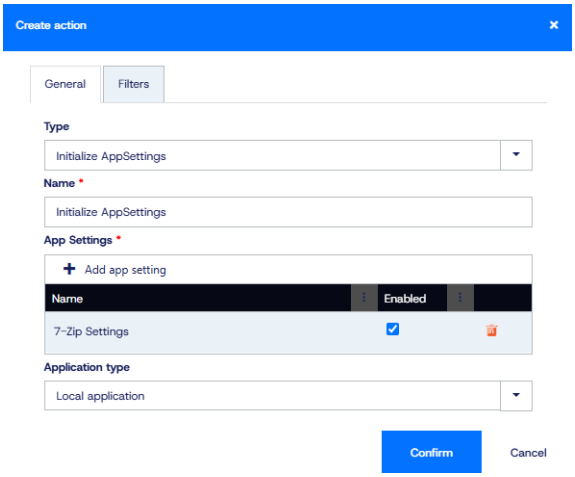
1. On the Packages page, double-click on an existing package.

2. In the **Releases** section, open the **Actions** tab.

3. Click **Create action** in the table toolbar.

4. In the **Create action** window that opens, under **Type**, select 'Initialize AppSettings'.

5. Click **Add app setting** and select the app setting item to add.



6. **Confirm** your changes.

App Settings Restoration

Each time the settings restoration function runs, it restores all the settings rather than only what differs from what is already on the device. The length of time it takes to restore app settings varies across environments. It depends on how much data needs to be restored and how fast the storage location is.

Application Workspace restores settings once per session. If you start an application after deleting a registry key, file or folder, Application Workspace will indicate that the settings have already been applied, and you will effectively create a new App Settings item to capture and restore the settings.

If something interrupts the settings restoration (for example, an OS crash, a lost network connection, or an AW service crash), the restore may be incomplete or the restored data may become corrupted.

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Troubleshooting App Settings
Investigate any App Settings issues using the relevant actions and errors written to local log files for both the Agent and the UserHost