

# WPKG

## *Easy Software Deployment*

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# WPKG? What?



- WPKG installs things
- WPKG removes things

# Why automate?



## Manual installation

-  ✓ very simple, no set-up.
-  ✗ slow, interrupts user, doesn't scale

## Remote installation (push)

-  ✓ doesn't disrupt users.
-  ✗ slow, prior set-up required, synchronous

## Remote installation (pull)

-  ✓ doesn't disrupt users, asynchronous
-  ✗ prior set-up required

# What else could we use?

- Ghosting
  - Good for homogenous hardware.
- Group Policy / Active Directory.
  - Requires Windows Server (£)
  - Repackage non-MSI installers
- Novell Zenworks
  - "doesn't install the application by running the install or setup program" (effectively repackages everything)

# What else could we use?

- Winapt
  - Doesn't actually exist yet
- Win-get
  - Single-host based
- Get-it
  - Single-host based

# How does WPKG work?

- Get list of packages
- Install any which are missing
- Remove any which are no longer in the list



# Silently install applications? ..

- Command line arguments (/S)
- Answer files (.iss)
- Transforms (.mst)
- Vendor-supplied tools
- No universal solution
- 200 definitions on WPKG website
- 350 definitions in my system

# Some terminology

- Each host is a member of some profiles
- Each profile has a list of packages to install



# Time for a demo



# Summary of WPKG

- Semi-manual mode for individual packages
- Fully-automatic mode for total management
- Large repository of package definitions
- Free and open source

# Conclusion

- Package management for Windows 2k, XP, Vista etc No RiscOS version - irrelevant in 6 months
- From an original idea by Jerry Haltom
- Now maintained by Tomasz Chmielewski
- <http://www.wpkg.org>
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