

# Re: Deployment under Vista

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- *From:* "Sally" <me@xxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Sat, 28 Jul 2007 06:55:52 +1000
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\*\*SEE END CONCLUSION BEFORE TEARING OUT HAIR DURING READING RESPONSES

"Rick Raisley" <heavymetal-A-T-bellsouth-D-O-T-net> wrote in message >> 1)  
The Install suggests that the app is placed in C:\Programs. I accept

that default.

....

The Install suggests putting the app where you set it to. A subdirectory of C:\Program Files would be the norm. I would hesitate making a new directory under root (C:\Programs), but would prefer the more standard location (suggested install directory would be c:\Program Files\Fred).

\*\*Sorry. Inexact verbiage by me. I meant Program Files

Make sure your install has the word "SETUP" or "INSTALL" in it. FredSetup.exe would be fine. This tells Vista that you are installing a program (which it usually can guess anyhow, but this is safer), and automatically requires Administrative rights to do. You will need that to both write to the Program Files directory, as well as install any runtime files.

\*\*Not sure what you mean here. The PDW automatically puts Steup.exe on the CD

2) As for the data files, I have hardcoded within my app to create a directory C:\FredData, and then lines like this

NEVER hardcode the data file or directory, if you can get away with it.

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First, that's adding another directory. Second, the user might prefer to install on a different drive. There are lots of reasons. Under previous OS's, you might make the data directory a subdirectory of the program directory, like:

```
c:\Program Files\Fred\Data
```

That works great with XP, and has the advantage that your application can look at its App.Path (C:\Program Files\Fred) in the \Data directory below that to determine data location. You might have a line like:

```
LedgerFile$ = App.Path & "Data\Ledger.dat"
```

(I forget whether App.Path will end up with a final "\", so you will need to have a function or check for that. I use an AddSlash function that checks for a slash in the rightmost character, and if there isn't one, adds it.

Now, that's all well and good for XP.

\*\*\*Ideally I want the PDW to produce a disc that will work in \*both\* XP and Vista

```
Open "C:\FredData\Ledger.Dat" For Random As #1 Len=255
```

Don't hardcode in filename #1. Find it first using Freefile.

```
ff = FreeFile()  
Open LedgerFile$ #ff Len=255
```

As I said, it all works under XP Home.

Right. Now, I've steered you above to a couple things:

- 1) Don't hard code install or data paths.
- 2) Install your app in a subdirectory of the Program Files directory.

Problem is, you're breaking the Vista rules by putting data in a Program Files directory. More on that later.

\*\*\*Here's where I'm lost.

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Now, a colleague is running Vista and I want to post him a CD so that he can

install my app and use it. BUT, I don't want to risk messing up his system,

which runs many critical applications. It is not so serious if he has trouble running mine. But it would certainly be serious if in attempting to

install mine some files or settings on his Vista were messed up. That was my anxiety.

A proper install should not mess up Vista or his apps.

\*\*\*But that's my problem! Esuring it's a \*proper\* install

So far, I think I have gleaned that

A) Any files apart from my app that PDW bundles on the deployment disc wail

not overwrite any of his that might be later (that cures one worry... IF I've got that right.

Done properly, that is the case. You can make the PDW screw things up by intentionally overwriting runtime files, but that's not normal (or good practice).

B) The app should not go in root (meaning C: direct). In that respect perhaps Vista makes a similarly appropriate default suggestion to the Programs directory in XP Home?

Correct. Nothing should be written there. But your app should go in a subdirectory of the Program Files directory.

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\*\*\*Oh a \*subdirectory\* eh? I don't think the PDW does that if the user just accepts the default suggestion, when he installs from the CD

Sorry, I just occurred to me that perhaps the default program directory for Vista IS C:\Programs, rather than C:\Program Files as in XP. Please ignore those comments if that is the case. Sorry, don't have Vista in front of me.

\*\*\* Neither do I or it would come faster to me as I tried it, I'm sure

C) The data files should not go in root. In that respect, perhaps my hardcoded C:\FredData\... will do the trick?

Discussed above. That would work, but isn't good, isn't related to your app, is hardcoded, etc.

A, B and C really encapsulate my concerns.

Well, no, it shouldn't. You need to have additional concerns, I'm afraid.

While installing as an Admin (the norm) will insure that your app should install properly, and your program files data will be put into the appropriate locations, there are functional problems:

Vista does not want the USER to change any files in the Program Files directory. Fact is, Vista doesn't want you to change any files /anywhere/ except within the User's personal directories. Like in Documents. The RIGHT

way here would be to put your Fred directory in the User's folders somewhere. Don't have Vista in front of me, what is it, the user's Update or

something like that? You can use environment variables to determine it (sorry about being nebulous here – I don't have the info at hand, and not much time to reply, but wanted to get something to you before the weekend).

\*\*OK. Here I'm lost because I don't have Vista. I am coming to the conclusion that I should not proceed further with this endeavour until I have a Vista machine myself and can test and get used to the ides of user

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folders/directories, permissions etc. Perhaps a lot on this is like trying to learn to drive without having a car. I have XP Home all right but not Vista.

Similarly, I am reading a book at present called "Learning to Fly Helicopters". Not making much sense, although I have flown fixed wing.

Anyhow, the idea is that Vista lets you save, change and delete any files within the USER's folders. And that data should be in a subfolder named for your app, normally, although Documents is used a lot, obviously. If you run the app with your data files in the location you (or I) specified above (in a subdirectory under root, or under the app's Program Files directory), one of two things will happen: Vista will prevent the file from being saved (program may crash). Or it will "Virtualize" the location, by storing it in a secret location you will have trouble finding, but it will LOOK to the user like it's where you wanted it to be. As long as only one person uses it, that might work okay. But if another person would log into that computer, he would find the original, untouched files, and would not be able to see those the other user changed.

The answer is either:

- 1) – The RIGHT thing – Determine the correct common users folder (again, no reference right now to help you), save the data there, which Vista will allow, and the same data can be shared between users. Requires program changes.
- 2) The Other RIGHT thing – Determine the user's folder that he has write-permission to, and save the data there, which will work fine but can't be shared between users. Requires program changes.
- 3) The WRONG thing – Run the program as an Administrator, which WILL allow the data files to be saved in the locations you specified above. While not right, this is a stop-gap that allows many people to run pre-Vista programs on Vista. I use it now for my older applications, until I can rewrite them to do things one of the right ways. This will require the least rewriting of your program (possibly none), but is really "cheating".

Hope that makes sense and helps you out some.

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Regards,

Rick Raisley

Thank you Rick. I conclude that I really need Vista to fully understand what you've said and ensure that this will run under it.