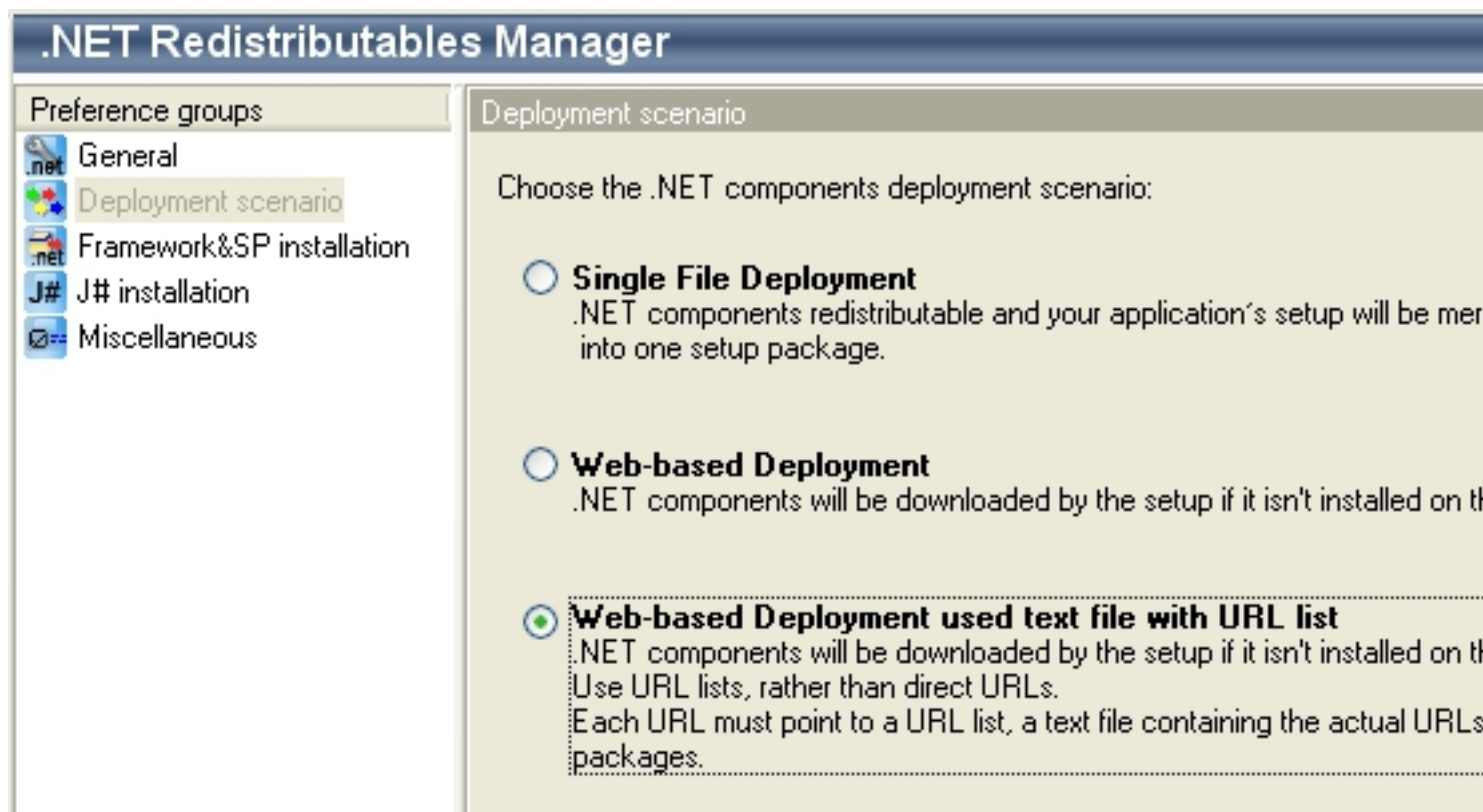


Web Deployment in Ghost Installer

Written by Administrator
Monday, 11 May 2009 09:43 -

More and more software developers prefer to put their programs on the web-site rather than to release them on floppies or CD-ROMs. Of course, the size of the installations (which is proportional to download time for user) is very important in this case, this is where Ghost Installer's small installation engine and flexible WebDeploy module settings come to help. Ghost Installer's WebDeploy plug-in supports downloading from several locations, remote configuration files, downloading only options selected by user, saving downloaded files for future installations, multi-language customizable user interface.

These features make WebDeploy very powerful tool and yet small in size. WebDeploy can also be used by other plug-ins to download redistributable files (e.g. .Net Framework or service pack files) directly from their vendor's web-site, which saves traffic for your server.

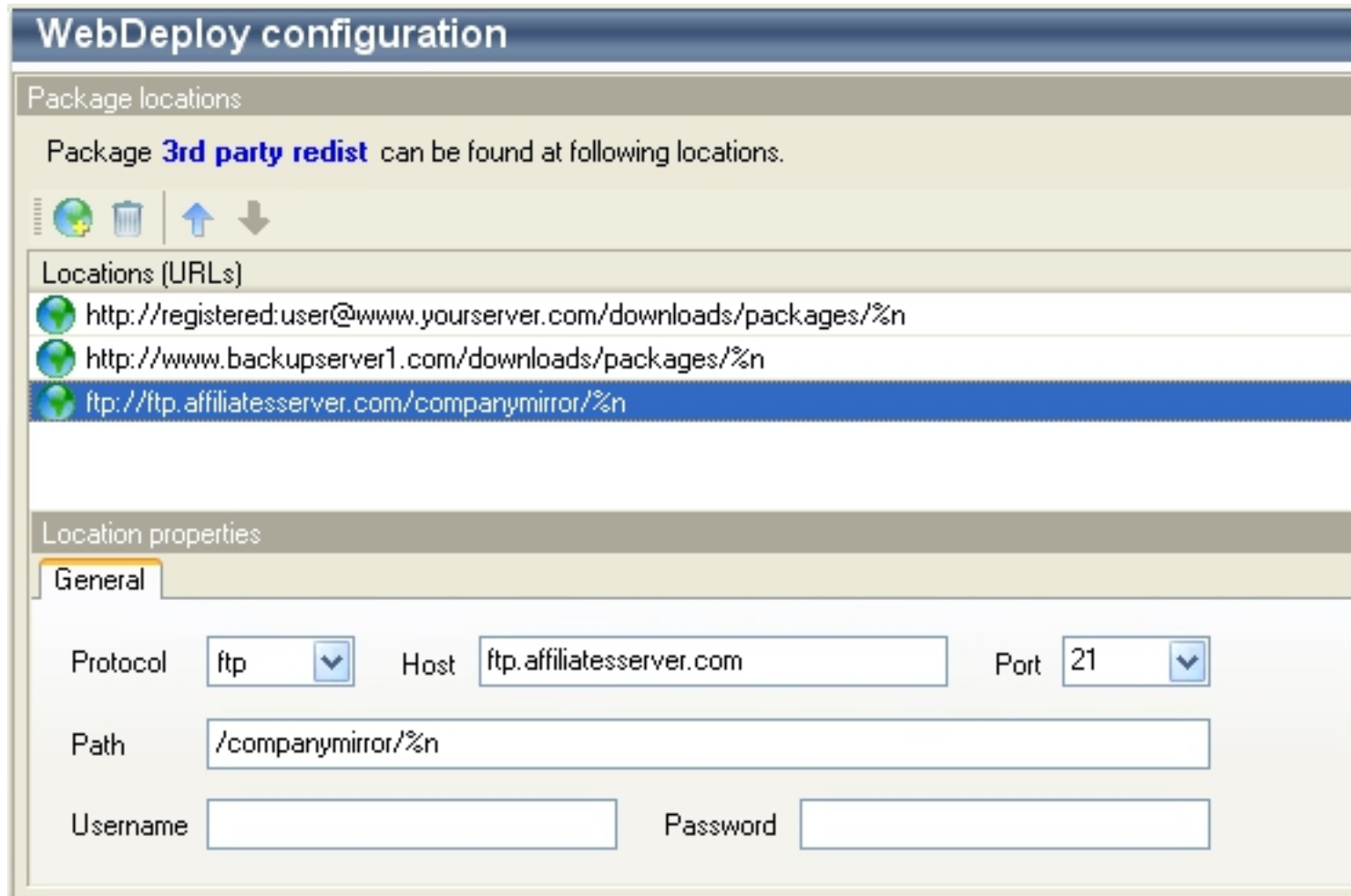


You can also configure your installation to download WebDeploy configuration from the web-server, so that if download location will change, your customers will never know it and your customer support service won't get additional letters from disappointed users.

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WebDeploy configuration



The screenshot shows the 'WebDeploy configuration' dialog box. At the top, it says 'Package **3rd party redistrib** can be found at following locations.' Below this is a list of 'Locations (URLs)'. The first two are HTTP URLs: 'http://registered.user@www.yourserver.com/downloads/packages/%n' and 'http://www.backupserver1.com/downloads/packages/%n'. The third is an FTP URL: 'ftp://ftp.affiliatesserver.com/companymirror/%n', which is currently selected. Below the list is the 'Location properties' section, with the 'General' tab active. It contains fields for Protocol (ftp), Host (ftp.affiliatesserver.com), Port (21), Path (/companymirror/%n), Username, and Password.

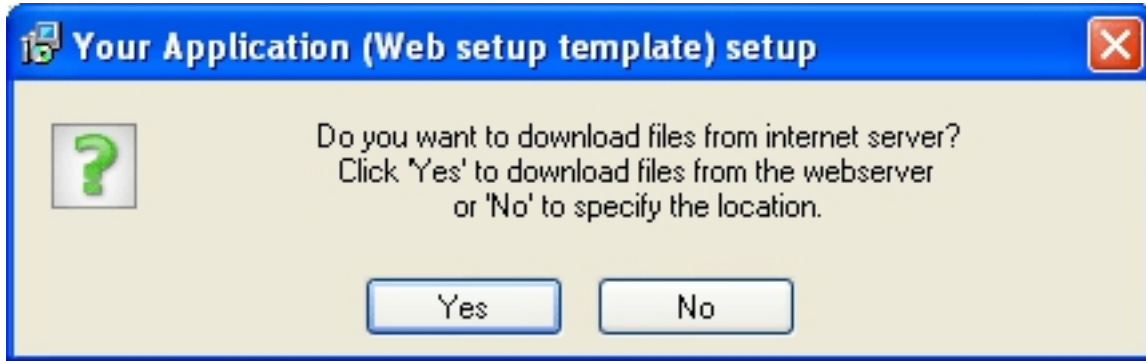
WebDeploy can be configured to download installation packages from several servers (the number of locations is unlimited). WebDeploy settings are independent for each package, so no configuration limitations are met here. During the installation WebDeploy tries to download a package from the first location, if it can't find the package there, it tries the second one and so on. Error message is shown to end-user only if all download locations have failed.

WebDeploy at work

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When the installer cannot find an installation package in the folder of setup.exe file it starts WebDeploy which asks user what action it should perform:

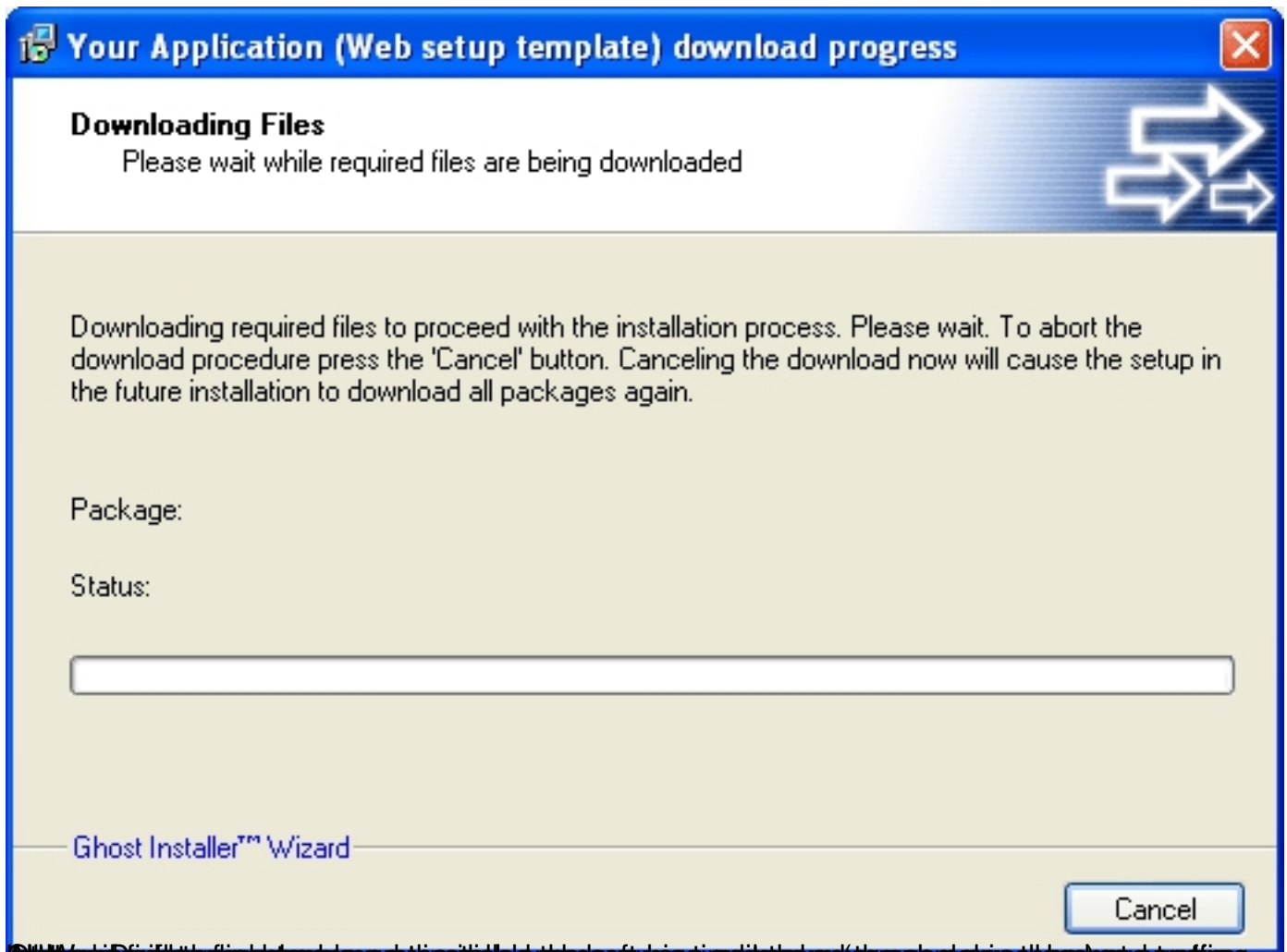


If a user installs your software for the first time he presses 'Yes' button and the files are downloaded from the server:

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The screenshot shows the Microsoft Visual Studio Dialog Designer interface. The main window displays a dialog box titled "[Dlg.WebDeploy.Caption]" with a title bar "[Dlg.WebDeploy.Title]" and subtitle "[Dlg.WebDeploy.SubTitle]". The dialog contains a progress bar control labeled "[Dlg.WebDeploy.DlgText]". The progress bar has a "Package:" label and a "Status:" label. The progress bar is currently at 0% and has a maximum value of 100. The progress bar is labeled "%UriText%".

The Properties window on the left shows the configuration for the "WDProgress (Progress Bar)" control. The Properties window is divided into "Properties" and "Events" tabs. The "Properties" tab is active, showing the following properties:

Property	Value
Cursor	Arrow
Control Specific	
Position	0
Range	100
Smooth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Vertical	<input type="checkbox"/>
Size & Position	
Anchors	[Left, Top]
Height	16
Left	23
Top	234
Width	472
Parameters	
Id	WDProgress
Predefined Action	
Visible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tooltip	
Tooltip	
Parent Tooltip Settings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Show Tooltip	<input type="checkbox"/>

The Action settings window at the bottom shows the "Preview language" set to "English (United States)".

Also dialogs use string WebDeployWebDeploymentDialogChangeLanguagePages and you can also

