

RELEASE NOTES

PACE Suite 4.7





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1 PACE Suite Overview

PACE Suite is an advanced and fast software packaging tool with an intuitive user interface and set of features providing (re)packaging in Windows Installer, APPX and various virtualized formats.

1.1 Key Advantages

- Out-of-the-box application packaging solution
- Intelligible wizards for running complex user scenarios
- High performance when generating large packages
- Per-user license valid for any number of physical and virtual machines

1.2 PACE Components

PACE Suite consists of the following components:



MSI GENERATOR

- Repackage any existing installation into Windows Installer (MSI), UWP app package (APPX) or a virtualization format (Microsoft App-V 5.x, and VMware ThinApp).
- Auto-detection of embedded installers.
- Create a response transform
- Tune any existing Windows Installer package by applying your settings and saving them as a Windows Installer transform (MST).
- Include the excluded files/registry back to a package



MSI EDITOR

- Manage the contents of an MSI in a tree view
- Import the necessary resources
- Edit and manage Custom Actions and Device Drivers
- Integrate scripts into your package
- Use a smart and advanced MSI database editor, with formatted string auto-completing, Excel-like formula bar, row reference tracking, and more.
- Create patches (MSP)
- Manage permission settings for file system and registry
- Handle upgrades easily – just let MSI Editor know which MSI you want to be upgraded at runtime.
- Publish your applications to Microsoft SCCM.
- See the estimated complexity of an app right away.
- Generate package documentation containing the details about your package and configuration.
- Undo-redo any manipulation and see the changes highlighted in the MSI tables



DOCU GENERATOR

- Automatically record your on-screen actions into a nice-looking document with screenshots and annotations





1.3 System Requirements

Ensure that a target system contains necessary software prerequisites:

OS	<p>Windows 10/8.1/8/7 SP1, Windows Server 2016/2012/2008 R2 SP1</p> <p>NOTE Building Universal Windows Platform app packages (APPX) is available under Windows 10 or Windows Server 2016 or newer.</p>
Middleware	<p>Microsoft .NET Framework 4.6.2 (https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=53345) or higher.</p> <p>NOTE For building THINAPP packages, ensure that your system contains VMware ThinApp (5.0.0/5.0.1/5.1.0/5.1.1/5.2.0) installed.</p> <p>NOTE For publishing MSI packages to Microsoft SCCM 2007 (SP1/SP2/R1/R2) or SCCM 2012 (SP1/SP2/R2/R2 SP1) server, ensure that your system contains Microsoft Management Framework 3.0 and Windows Remote Management (WinRM) service enabled.</p>
Privileges	Administrative privileges on the system.

1.4 Hardware Requirements

Ensure that a target system fulfils the minimum hardware conditions:

Processor	<p>32-bit (x86) or 64-bit (x64) processor at 2 GHz or greater</p> <p>NOTE To repackage 64-bit applications or create 64-bit App-V packages, use PACE Suite on a 64-bit Windows operating system.</p>
RAM	2 GB
Hard drive free space	<p>1 GB</p> <p>NOTE Additional storage is required for your projects and packages and depends on their size and quantity.</p>
Display	1280 x 768 resolution or higher.





2 Release Notes

2.1 About This Release

We are proud to present **PACE Suite 4.7** – our latest release, which takes one of the particularly complex areas of application packaging - working with the registry – and makes it easier to succeed with your packaging tasks, even for newcomers to this field. This release brings a new approach to reviewing and managing registry keys and values with the help of an entirely new Registry tab in MSI Editor. We made a lot of improvements to the UI to ensure it stays user-friendly, no matter how hard your current task is. Find detailed information about each registry value, easily navigate through all your changes thanks to colourful highlights, and undo any operation if necessary.

We are committed to helping you achieve the highest possible quality of packages you create in PACE Suite. That's why you can now leverage many validation rules on the new Registry tab and immediately locate errors before saving your package. Moreover, now you can seamlessly move keys and values to another keys or hives, as well as view and manage Remove Registry entries.

You can now enjoy even better stability of creating patch packages. We overhauled the mechanism of creating MSP files to ensure you always create a working, high quality patches.

PACE Suite 4.7 also brings improvements to MSI Generator. Creation of CAB files was enhanced to ensure even the largest files (for instance, over 2Gb in size) are always divided into equal parts and saved correctly.

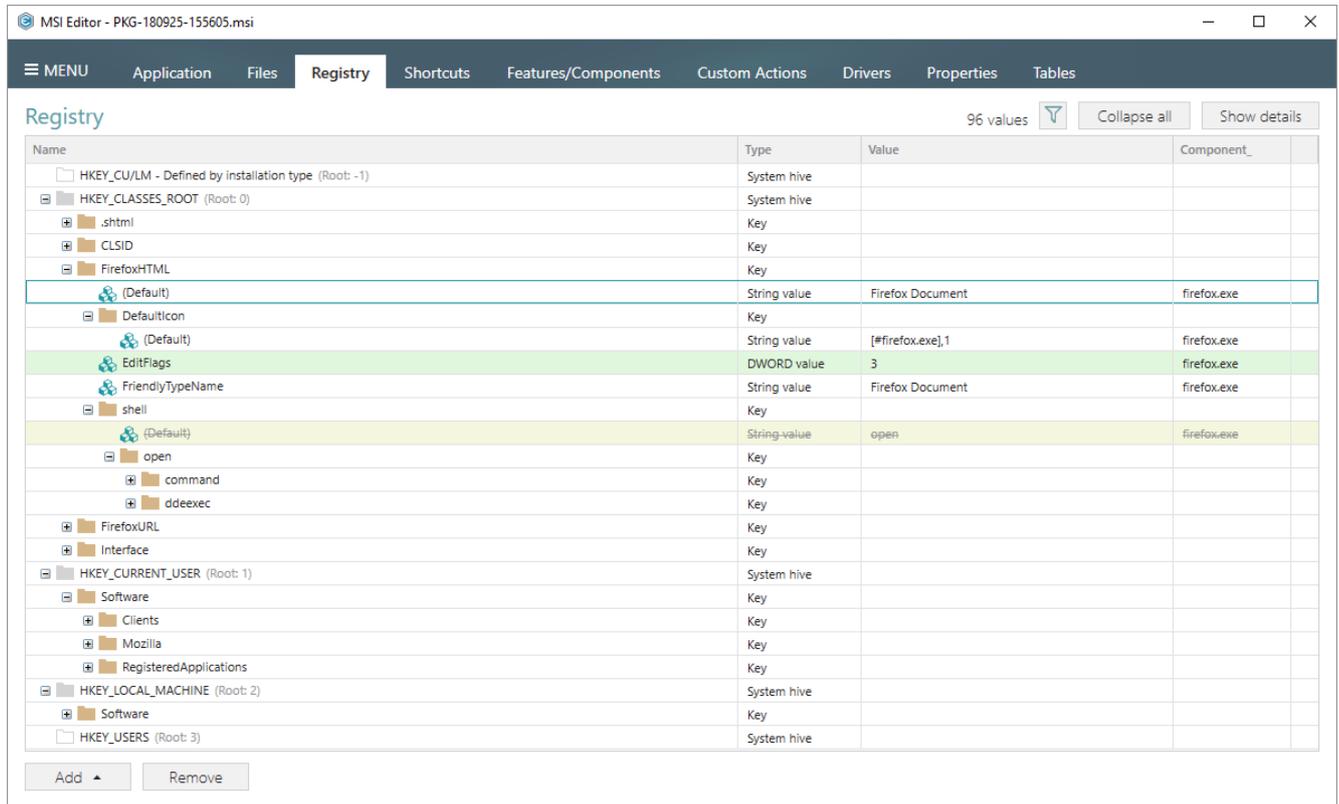
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2.2 New Registry tab in MSI Editor

2.2.1 Easier registry keys and values management with the tree list view

Enjoy a user-friendly tree list view on the Registry tab and find all registry keys and values from both “Registry” and “RemoveRegistry” tables. This view makes it easier to see all contents of all keys – just click **Expand all** to see everything that is in your package or click **Collapse all** to get back to a high-level overview.



In the tree list, you can immediately see registry value’s details such as type, value itself, and Component to which this value is assigned. All added, modified, or removed resources are highlighted with colours, and you can quickly undo any of those changes.

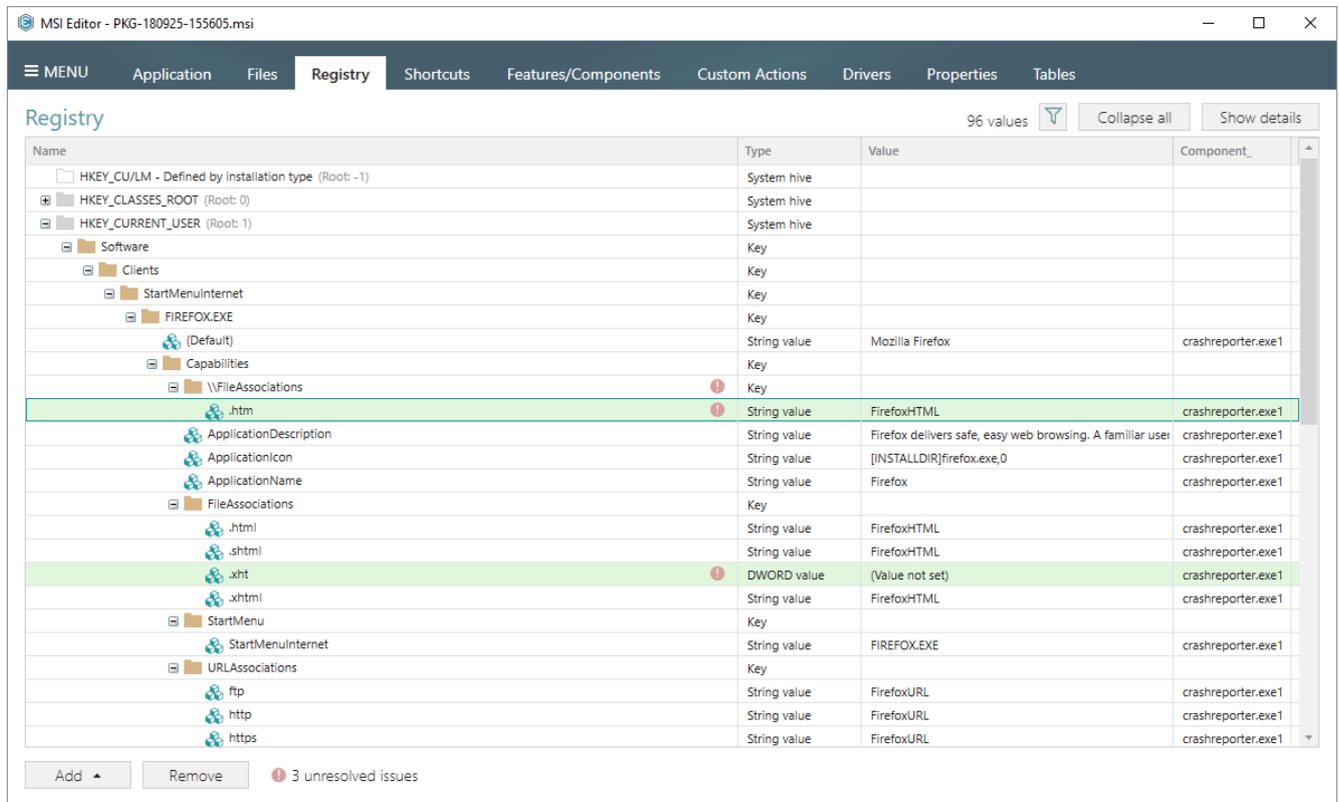
New Registry tab also has filters that hide items from the “RemoveRegistry” table, named ‘value/key removal’ items, removed items and items without permissions.

Finally, using the Registry tab you can create a new key, value and value/key removal items (RemoveRegistry).

2.2.2 Error detection right when it’s most needed

The tree list has a vast amount of validation rules so you can fix errors before testing or building your package. For instance, it checks if a value matches all the limitations and rules of the specified value type; if there are keys, which begin or end, or contain extra backslashes (\). Another example

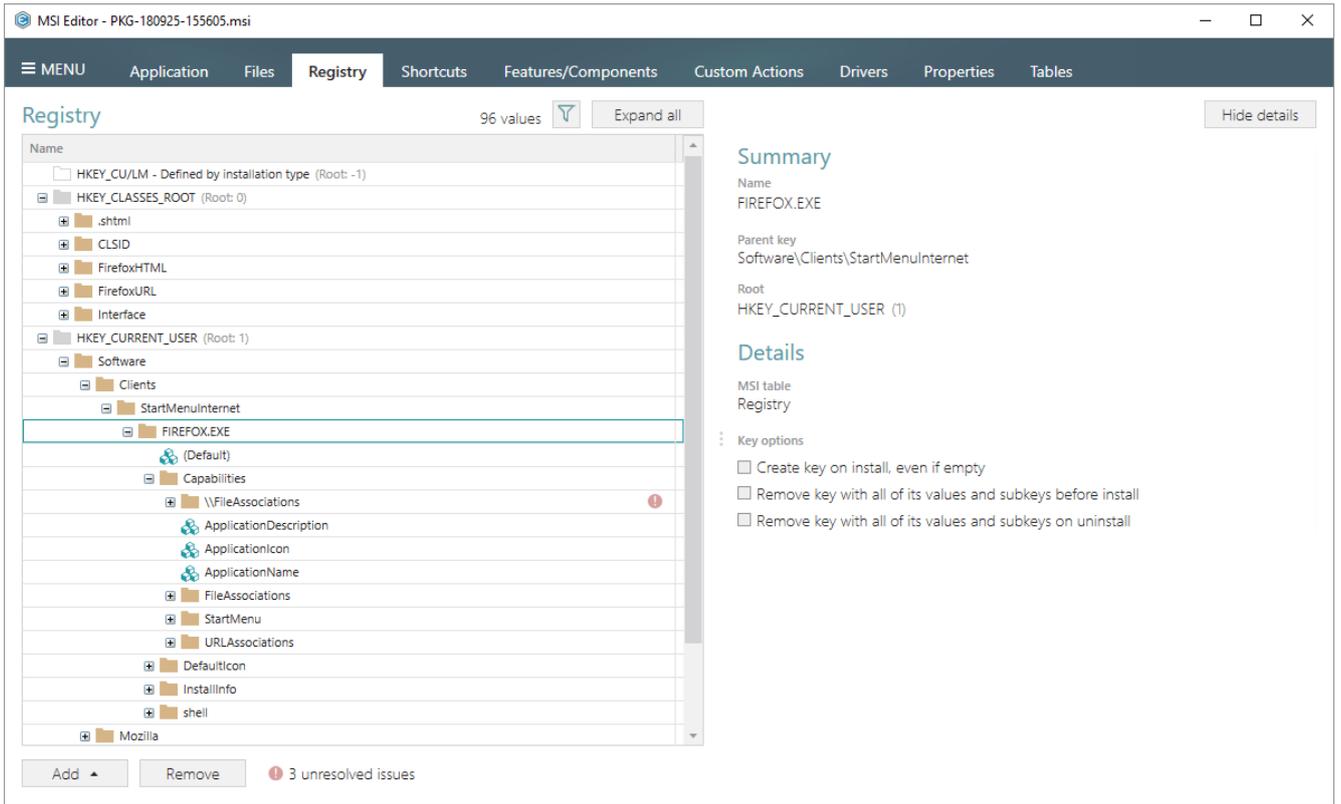
– the tree list even checks if the component, associated with the registry value, does not contain both per-user and per-machine resources, as it is against the packaging best practices and rules.



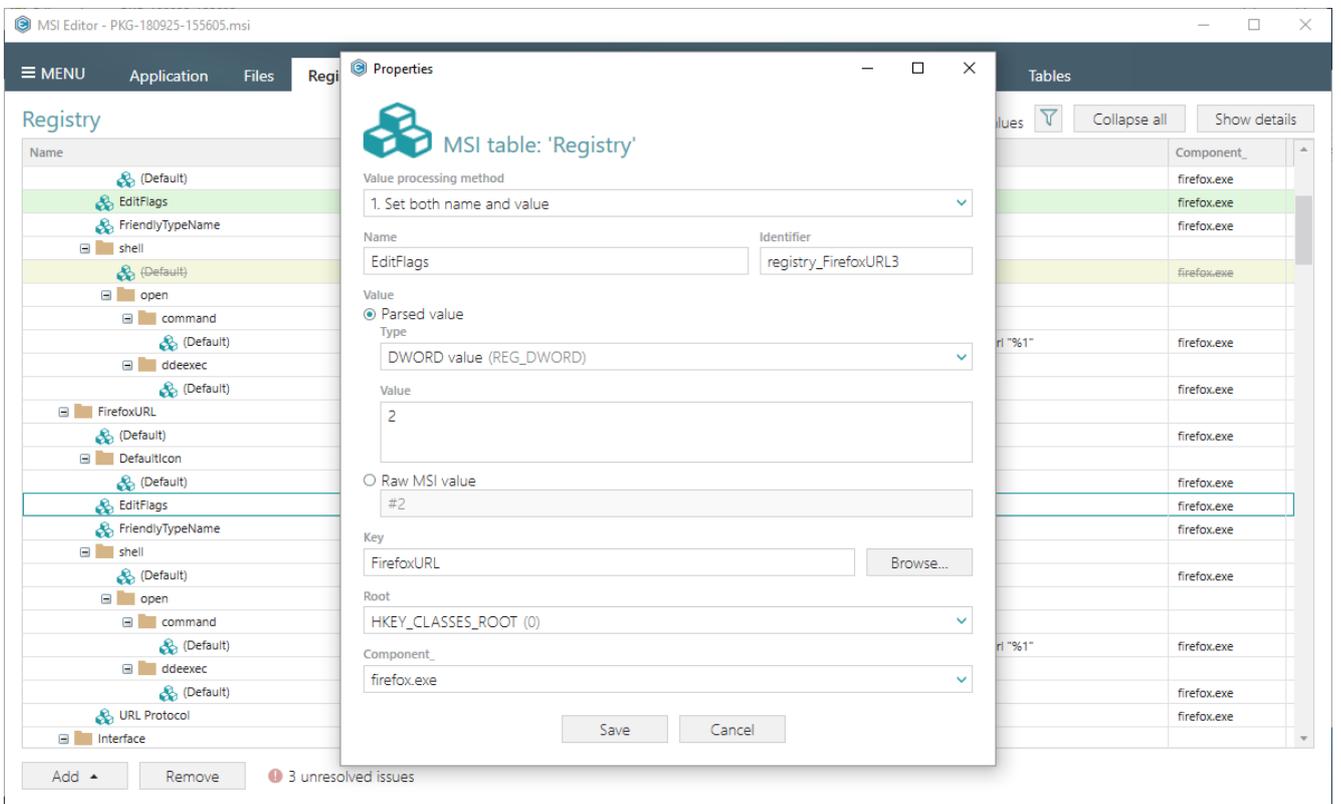
The number of validation errors is calculated and displayed in the status bar below the tree list so you will not miss any errors.

2.2.3 Rich data for every resource

In MSI Editor, Registry tab has four types of resources – Hives (roots), registry keys, registry values, and value/key removal items – each of which has its own Details pane. For instance, for registry key the Details pane shows its name, parent key, root, and other relevant details and key options. For registry values, you can review their values in parsed (transformed) view and in their original, raw MSI format.



You can also edit all above-mentioned details for each resource in their respective Property windows.



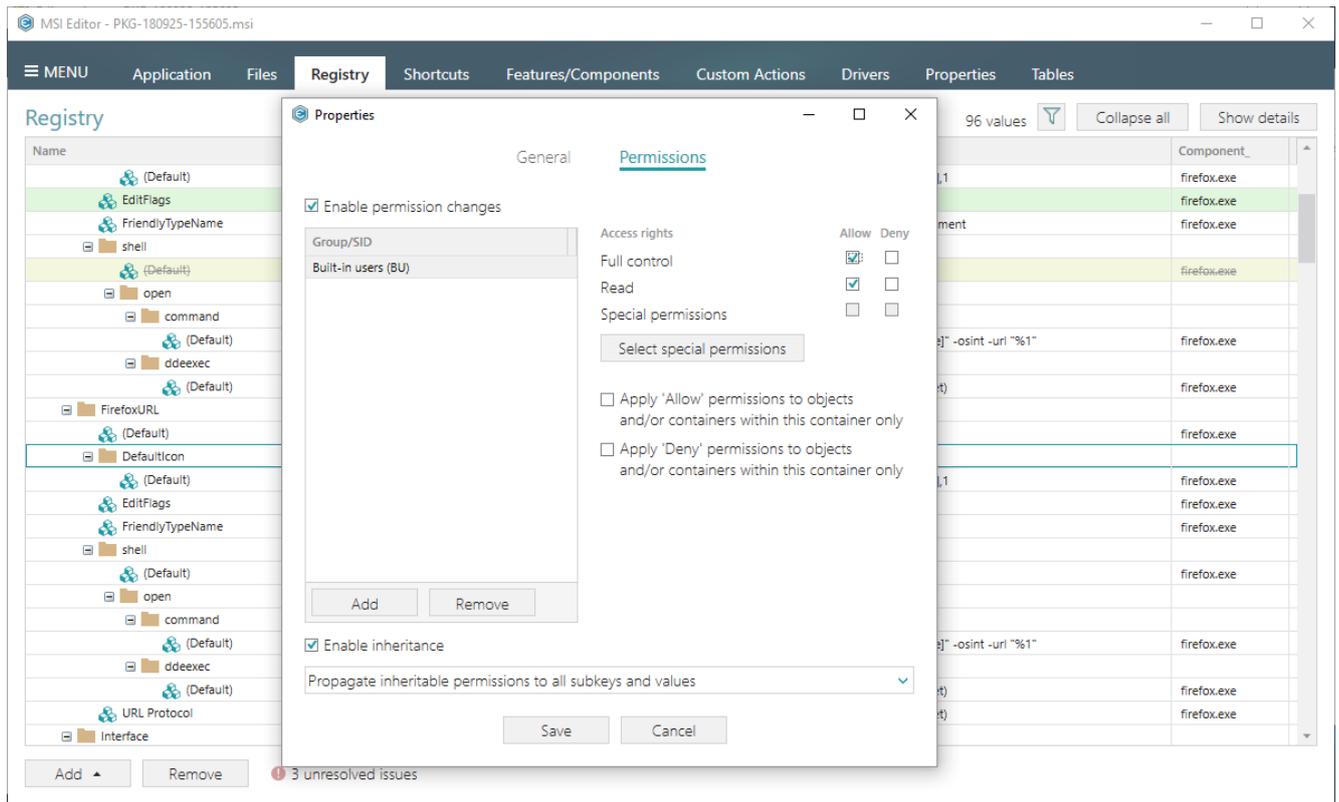
For instance, for a registry value, you can change identifier, name, value type, value itself, key,



where this value is located, root and re-assign this value to another component from the list. For creating a Default key value, or securing a key creation and/or removal, simply select a respective option from the **Value processing method** field.

2.2.4 Redesigned permissions management

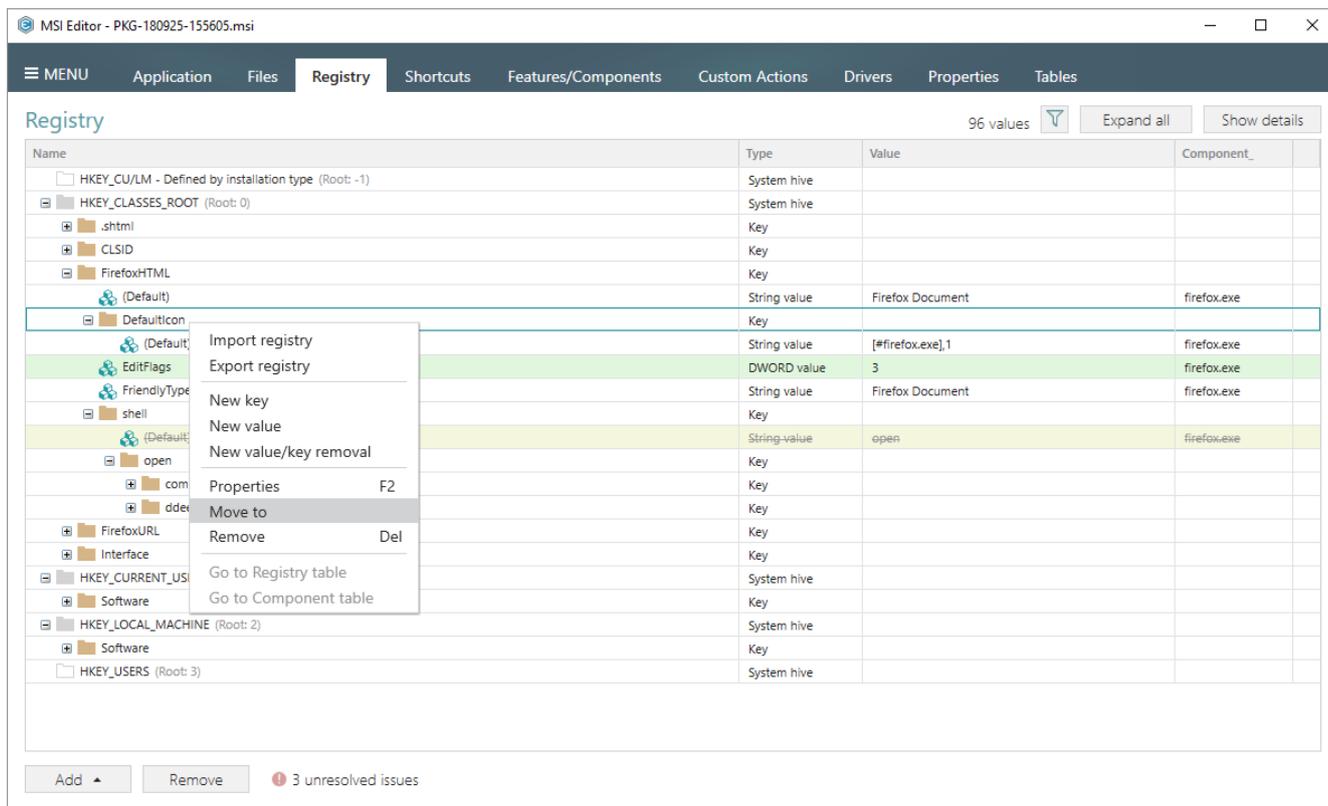
MSI Editor now has a new permission management property, and you can change permissions for registry keys on the Registry tab.



You can also quickly enable or disable permissions for any key.

2.2.5 “Move to” feature

Now, you can move any resource to a new place in just one click and without any leftovers.



Moving has an advanced mechanism that checks existing permission settings of the keys, which will be merged, and informs you in advance about potential issues. Easily take one value or key with values and subkeys and place it in a new location with one click.

2.3 Other Improvements

2.3.1 MSI Editor

- A new approach to creating patch packages, which changes the way files are extracted from MSI before creating a patch. We developed our solution that offers better stability than the standard tool, built into the operating systems, so now you can always get a working patch package with PACE Suite.
- Many enhancements to the internal mechanisms of MSI Editor that boosted the overall speed of editing your packages.

2.3.2 MSI Generator

- We replaced the old mechanism of creating CAB files to guarantee the better stability of managing these resources. CAB files are always split into equal parts and do not depend on the file size. For instance, even files over 2Gb in size will be divided into cabinet files of the same size, below the CAB size limit of 2Gb, and will be saved correctly.

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- Another improvement to MSI Generator is a significantly better identification of package's architecture (32-bit or 64-bit) that depends on the resources you capture. Now, the final value of the Platform field will be set automatically and correctly if you left the Autodetect option turned on.



3 Release History

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