GenerateIconDlls.vbs

A tool for accessing App-V Virtual Applications as WS2008 Remote Apps

GenerateIconDlls is a free script to help people who want to publish App-V virtual applications as Remote Applications on Windows Server 2008 based Terminal Servers.

Background

App-V and Application Publishing Access

Microsoft App-V provides for publishing access to virtual applications to a user's desktops and start menus. These publications point to an App-V client with command line arguments that will start the appropriate virtual application. These shortcuts are displayed using an App-V generated icon file (file with an ICO extension) that was taken out of the virtualized application. This technique works fine for publishing to a full desktop using the App-V client.

Manually creating shortcuts using this technique for Citrix and some other application publishing techniques is also known to work.

Windows Server 2008 Remote Applications

In Windows Server 2008, Microsoft introduced "Remote Applications" as an option for Terminal Server Users. If you are familiar with Citrix Web Interface, TS Web works the same sort of way – a web page that has icons that launch the remote app on the terminal server but displayed in an application window on the client rather than the client getting a complete desktop interface on the terminal server.

Whether a bug or a missing feature (Microsoft is aware of the issue but we don't yet know how they will treat it), it turns out that when publishing remote apps, the displayed icon can only come from an exe or dll or other graphic file, **but not an ICO file**! This is a problem if you intend to combine App-V with TS Remote App.

A Solution

GenerateIconDlls is a VBScript that will parse the App-V Content share to automatically create a dll for each virtual package you have. The dll will include icons for all of the applications inside that package. When you publish the Remote Application, you pick this dll and select the appropriate icon.

Just run the script on a machine with the prerequisites and from an account with writable access to the App-V content share. Point to either the full share, or an individual package. It will walk the directories and create the dll for each package, storing it right next to the package itself.

GenerateIconDlls requires some development tools to be installed in order to generate the dlls. VS2008 is known to work, but you might be able to get others to work also.

This tool is released as a free tool without warrantee. I created this tool for my own lab, however it is in use in at least one enterprise already. Read the VBS file for instructions on setup and use. The tool is available in the tools section of my website http://www.tmurgent.com/tools.aspx .