

VLXE IT-Administrator Notes

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This note is aimed at VLXE customers that want to install or update VLXE on a PC without using the install file. An example of use is distribution an update to VLXE to user's PC over a network using a script.

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1 Background information

The VLXE software is written in Visual Studio 2008. The engineering code is written in C++ while the interface is written in C# using .NET 3.5. It uses DIPPR dataset in Access format and a VLXE database in SQL Server 2005 format.

The software is integrated into Excel using an Automated COM. The reason that an automated COM is used and not VSTO is the fact that user defined functions (UDF) cannot be made using VSTO for Excel 2003.

2 Before installing VLXE

In order to run the software needs:

- Windows XP or newer windows version
- Microsoft .NET 3.5 installed
- Excel 2003 or Excel 2007
- Access to SQL Server 2005. Either Express or server version.
- The installer must have write access to HKEY_CURRENT_USER in the windows registry database.

SQL Server 2005 Express can be downloaded here:

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=220549b5-0b07-4448-8848-dcc397514b41&DisplayLang=en>

3 Install steps

There are 5 steps needed to install VLXE:

1. Prerequisite.
2. Copy the files to the users PC
3. Create the shortcuts under Start/Programs/VLXE
4. Register the 2 COM that connect VLXE with Excel with windows
5. Write user defined information into the registry file.

The VLXE install file will perform all these steps. However a tool is provided that can perform the last 3 steps. The tool is called: VLXE.Install.Console.exe and can either perform the last 3 steps or remove them from the PC (Uninstall).

3.1 Prerequisite

These are the prerequisites need to run VLXE For Excel:

- Windows XP, similar or newer Windows system
- Excel 2003 or newer
- .NET 3.5
- SQL Server 2005, either full or Express.
- Write permission to the HKEY_CURRENT_USER node in the windows registry file

These are the prerequisites needed to use VLXE SDK

- Windows XP, similar or newer Windows system
- Write permission to the HKEY_CURRENT_USER node in the windows registry file

3.2 Copy files to users PC

This task can be performed by a simple script.

3.3 Create the shortcuts under Start/Programs/VLXE

Shortcuts are placed under Start/Programs/VLXE.

3.4 Register the 2 COM that connect VLXE with Excel with windows

In order for VLXE to function inside Excel 2 COM's needs to be registered.

They are:

File name	GUID	Name	Function
VLXE2003.dll	54C0C685-4EF2-4A1A-8693-B5773DBED295	VLXE2003.Connect	Provide the hook-up to VLXE. Example are menu's in Excel
VLXE2003.dll	B73059E6-919C-4D2A-BBED-0BA59E872D1E	VLXE.Functions	Provide the user defined functions (UDF) provided inside Excel by VLXE

3.5 Write user defined information into the registry file.

User defined information is placed in the registry file under:

HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\VLXE\1.0

4 types of information are stored:

1. User information

2. License information
3. Location of DIPPR Access database file
4. Connection string used to connect to the VLXE SQL 2005 database.

Below is a screen dump showing an example of the information stored in the register file:

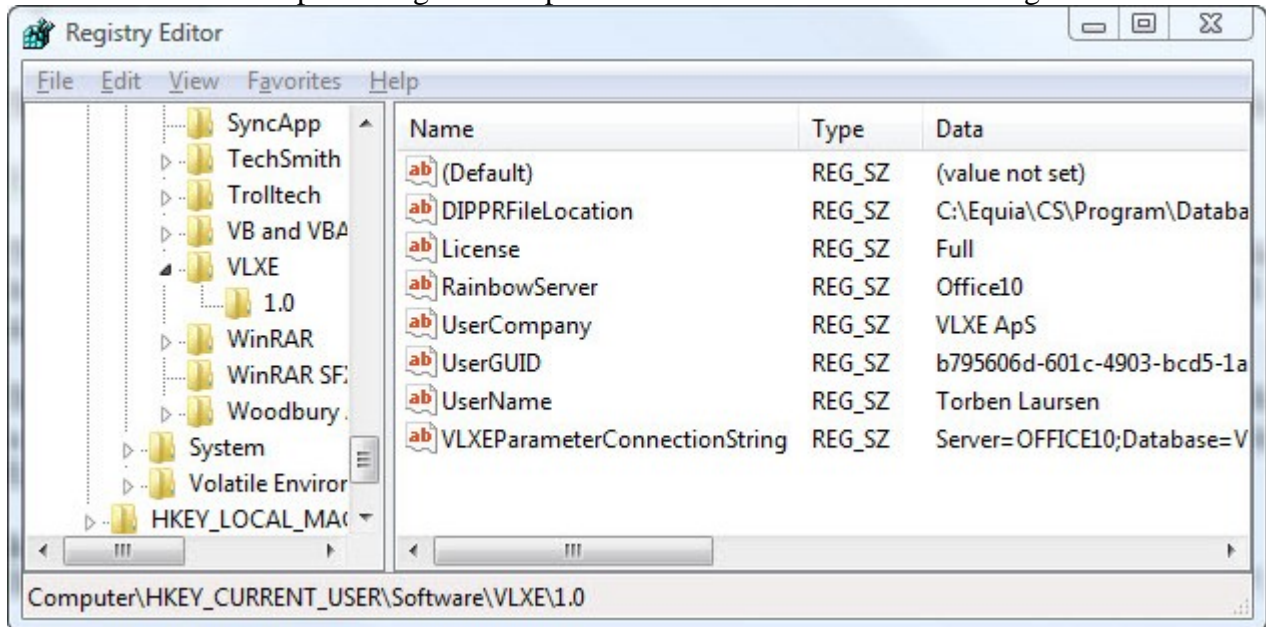


Figure 1: Screen dump with a example of the register information used by VLXE

3.5.1 User

The UserCompany and UserName are provided at install time. The UserGUID is set by the VLXE install program. Note that none of these 3 settings are vital for the software. General settings can be used.

3.5.2 License

3 options are valid:

- Enterprise – Complete VLXE license
- Professional – Limited to small components only
- Lite – Free license (Note has a number of limitations)

3.5.3 RainbowServer

Name of the rainbow server that host the SentinelLM license server. Note that if a stand alone license is used the server name is: no-net

3.5.4 DIPPRFileLocation

Full Path + name of the DIPPR access database file.

3.5.5 VLXEParameterConnectionString

Connection string used to connect to the VLXE SQL Server 2005 parameter database.

4 How to generate xml file

The user information written to the registry file is read from an xml file:
“VLXE.Install.Settings.xml”.

If no copy is available it can be generated using the VLXE.Install.Console.exe tool by calling:
“VLXE.Install.Console.exe /xml”. This will create a new xml file.

5 How to install VLXE

In order to install VLXE without using the install files the 5 steps in section 3 has to be performed
Step 1 and 2 has to be done using a script (or by hand)
Step 3, 4 and 5 is performed using the provided tool: VLXE.Install.Console.exe. However the user
information needed under step 5 are taken from a XML file called: VLXE.Install.Settings.xml
This file has to be edited so the correct information is set.
Once this is done you are ready to install VLXE.

The steps are:

- Check the prerequisites
- Edit the settings file: VLXE.Install.Settings.xml
- Copy the files to the users PC
- Call VLXE.Install.Console.exe using the switch /install: “VLXE.Install.Console.exe /install”

Note: VLXE.Install.Console.exe does not copy or delete any files

The software is now installed.

6 How to uninstall VLXE

In order to uninstall VLXE 2 steps has to be performed

Step 1

Call VLXE.Install.Console.exe using the switch /uninstall: "VLXE.Install.Console.exe /uninstall"

Note: *VLXE.Install.Console.exe does not copy or delete any files*

Step 2

Delete the VLXE folder so all files are removed from the users PC

The software is now uninstalled.

7 Silent run

When running VLXE.Install.Console.exe a popup is shown that state the result. Success or problems found. If this popup is not wanted add the argument /silent to the argument list.

8 Log file

A log file is used. It is called: "VLXE.Install.Console.log.txt". It is stored in the same directory as VLXE.Install.Console.exe

9 Notes

Questions, comments and suggestions are very welcome.

10 Contact VLXE

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