

## Multi-Lingual User Interface (MUI) Language Packs for Windows

This brief applies to all Microsoft Volume Licensing programs.

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### Summary

This brief provides details about licensing requirements for the Microsoft Multi-Lingual User Interface (MUI) Language Pack available for the Windows desktop operating system.

### What's New in This Brief

This brief replaces a previous version published in May 2011. It has been updated to include Windows 8.

### Availability of MUI for Volume Licensing Customers

MUI is a feature of Windows that helps in creating and deploying a single desktop PC operating system image with up to 36 languages. With MUI, end users can also switch the Windows user interface between multiple languages on a single PC.

All editions of Windows 8 include MUI. For Windows Vista and Windows 7, MUI is available only with the Enterprise edition, which requires the device to be covered by Software Assurance for Windows. For qualifying customers, MUI language packs are available to download from the [Volume Licensing Support Center \(VLSC\)](#).

### Use of MUI Language Packs by OEMs

OEMs use MUI language packs in their manufacturing process, and some PCs that OEMs sold include MUI packs on the installation image and/or recovery disk media. In these cases, the first time Windows is run on the PC, the user is prompted to go through the Out-of-Box Experience (OOBE) setup wizard and select the language they want to use. Once the OOBE wizard is completed, all additional language packs are deleted from the PC. This capability is only permitted in the following cases:

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## Reimaging licensed Microsoft software using Volume Licensing media

- ▶ When the image is created using OEM-media supplied to the OEM by Microsoft.
- ▶ When the image is created using Windows Volume Licensing media and the PC is running Windows 8 or (if running Windows 7 or Windows Vista) covered by Software Assurance for Windows

The OEM may not apply MUI language packs to Volume Licensing media images on PCs not either running Windows 8 or covered by Software Assurance for Windows. In addition, products that users purchase from an OEM that include MUI language packs do not give the user the ability to use the MUI packs on additional PCs or to use MUI language packs on Volume Licensing media used to reimage that PC or any other PC. Also, the customer cannot modify OEM recovery media and use it as the basis for an organization's standard image, which they update and maintain.

## FAQ

### What MUI language packs are available?

MUI language packs are available for all 36 languages offered for Windows Vista, Windows 7, and Windows 8, which includes the following:

- |   |                      |                   |
|---|----------------------|-------------------|
| ▶ Arabic                                | ▶ Finnish            | ▶ Polish          |
| ▶ Brazilian Portuguese                  | ▶ French             | ▶ Portuguese      |
| ▶ Bulgarian                             | ▶ German             | ▶ Romanian        |
| ▶ Chinese (Simplified)                  | ▶ Greek              | ▶ Russian         |
| ▶ Chinese (Traditional)                 | ▶ Hebrew             | ▶ Serbian (Latin) |
| ▶ Chinese (Traditional [for Hong Kong]) | ▶ Hungarian          | ▶ Slovak          |
| ▶ Croatian                              | ▶ Italian            | ▶ Slovenian       |
| ▶ Czech                                 | ▶ Japanese           | ▶ Spanish         |
| ▶ Danish                                | ▶ Korean             | ▶ Swedish         |
| ▶ Dutch                                 | ▶ Latvian            | ▶ Thai            |
| ▶ English                               | ▶ Lithuanian         | ▶ Turkish         |
| ▶ Estonian                              | ▶ Norwegian (Bokmål) | ▶ Ukrainian       |

### Because MUI is included with Windows 8 without Software Assurance required, can I use downgrade rights to run MUI on Windows 7 PC not covered by Software Assurance?

No. For Windows 7, MUI is only available with Windows 7 Enterprise, which requires Software Assurance.

### If I do not have Software Assurance and am not interested in language-switching functionality, can I use MUI language pack to configure a Windows Vista Business or Windows 7 Professional image and to delete extra languages after setup?

No. You can only apply language packs to Windows Vista Enterprise, Windows 7 Enterprise, Windows 8, Windows XP-based computers that are covered by Software Assurance, or Windows XP images for computers that were already covered by an MUI license.

### If I am not using MUI, can I combine operating system images of multiple languages (for example, English, French, and German) into a single Windows Imaging Format (WIM) file?

If you are using Windows Vista Enterprise, Windows 7 Enterprise, or any edition of Windows 8, you can combine images of multiple operating system languages into a single WIM image file and apply MUI language packs. If you are

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using Windows Vista Business or Windows 7 Professional, all images included in a single WIM must use the same operating system language.

### **What are my options if I do not have Software Assurance and I am deploying Windows 7?**

Volume Licensing customers can deploy any operating system language for which they have a license. Because MUI language packs are not available for Windows 7 without Software Assurance, customers need to maintain separate operating system installation images for each Windows language. Consumers and small businesses that require multilanguage switching capabilities can obtain Windows Vista and Windows 7 Ultimate preinstalled on a new PC or as a retail full-packaged product (FPP). OEMs can also enable language switching by installing multiple copies of Windows Vista and Windows 7 on the PC in a dual-boot configuration. In this scenario, customers must acquire a separate Windows Certificate of Authenticity (COA) for each language of Windows installed.

### **Do the above policies apply to Language Interface Packs?**

You can download Language Interface Packs (LIPs) from the Microsoft.com website and apply them to any genuine copy of Windows. LIPs are partially localized language packs for emerging or minority language markets where a fully localized version of Windows is not available. Learn more at [Microsoft Local Language Program](#).

### **Where can I learn more about MUI?**

For additional information about MUI, visit:

- ▶ [Setting Display Language in Windows 8 and Windows RT](#)
- ▶ [Guide to Windows Multilingual User Interface](#)
- ▶ [Windows MUI/LIP Knowledge Center](#)

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