Installing the ADF Application

Introduction

This guide covers how to install the ADF application on a Windows workstation.

This document applies to the following applications		
ADFPRO Mobile & Computer Triage	DEI Digital Evidence Investigator	MDI Mobile Device Investigator

System Requirements

The ADF forensics tools are designed to run on the following computers:

Operating System	Minimum System Requirements
Windows 11 64-bit	8GB of RAM, 20 GB of free hard drive space 16 GB of RAM with Rosoka Add-on 1TB Hard-drive for acquired suspect data

Recommended System Specifications
Windows 11 64-bit Intel i7 CPU 16GB of RAM 500GB PCIe NVMe SSD hard drive 5TB Hard-drive for acquired suspect data

Windows Standard User

The application has to be installed by an Administrator but it can then be executed by a Standard User with the following limitations:

- Updating the Windows bootable image with new drivers when preparing a Collection Key (this operation is extremely rare and is explained in the Adding Drivers to the WinPE Image section of the Rebooting a Computer guide). A Standard User can activate BitLocker on Collection Keys. BitLocker requires an edition of Windows that supports it, such as Windows 11 Pro, Enterprise or Education.

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Installer

The ADF application installers can be downloaded from this link. The installer file name contains the abbreviated name of the product (ADF for ADF PRO and DEI, MDI for Mobile Device Investigator), the version number, and the exe file extension, for example ADF-6.4.0.xxx.exe. ADF PRO and DEI use the same installer.
The ADF application is packaged in a self extracting Zip file containing a standard Windows Installer file (a.k.a Microsoft Installer or MSI), and its companion cab files.

Installer Flags

It is possible to start a silent installation by using the ai (for AutoInstall) command line parameter as follows:

```
start /wait ADF-6.4.0.xxx.exe -ai
```

Installation Instructions

To install the ADF application, simply execute its installer and follow the onscreen instructions. See below for details on how to install the Windows ADK and the ADF Smartphone Driver Pack.

Windows ADK Installation

This document applies to the following applications		
ADFPRO Mobile & Computer Triage	DEI Digital Evidence Investigator	

The ADF application uses the Windows Assessment and Deployment Kit (ADK) and the Windows PE (WinPE) add-on to make USB Collection Keys bootable in order to boot scan a target computer directly. Starting with version 6.4.0, the boot image contains both the x64 and the ARM64 versions of Windows PE: a Collection Key prepared with the GPT partition scheme boots both x64 (Intel and AMD) computers and ARM64 computers, such as laptops with Qualcomm Snapdragon processors. A Collection Key prepared with the MBR partition scheme boots x64 computers only.



The ADF application only supports ADK and WinPE add-on 10.1.28000.1 (November 2025). Please make sure to download the correct ones from this page. The page lists several ADK versions, so check the version number before downloading.
The direct download links are:

- Windows ADK 10.1.28000.1
- Windows PE add-on for the ADK 10.1.28000.1

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Online Installation

To install the ADK and WinPE add-on on a workstation connected to the Internet, follow these steps:

1. Download the adksetup.exe and adkwinpesetup.exe files from the links above.
2. Execute the adksetup.exe.
3. In the ADK installer wizard:
    a. Accept the default installation location.
    b. Choose the Privacy Options desired.
    c. Accept the license agreement.
    d. Only select the "Deployment Tools" and uncheck everything else, then click Install.
    e. Wait for the installation to complete.
    f. Close the installation wizard.
4. Execute the adkwinpesetup.exe.
5. In the ADK WinPE add-on installer wizard:
    a. Accept the default installation location.
    b. Choose the Privacy Options desired.
    c. Accept the license agreement.
    d. Make sure the "Windows Preinstallation Environment (Windows PE)" feature is selected and click Install
    e. Wait for the installation to complete.
    f. Close the installation wizard.

Offline Installation

To install the ADK and WinPE add-on on a workstation that is NOT connected to the Internet, follow these steps:

1. Use a computer that is connected to the Internet and download the adksetup.exe and adkwinpesetup.exe files from the links above.
2. Execute adksetup.exe.
3. In the ADK installer wizard:
    a. On the Specify Location screen, select the option "Download the Windows Assessment and Deployment Kit for installation on a separate computer", and select the download path to point to a removable storage device with at least 4 GB of free space.
    b. Choose the Privacy Options desired.
    c. Accept the license agreement.
    d. Wait for the download to complete.
    e. Close the installation wizard.
4. Execute adkwinpesetup.exe.
5. In the ADK WinPE add-on installer wizard:
    a. On the Specify Location screen, select the option "Download the Windows Assessment and Deployment Kit Windows Preinstallation Environment Add-ons for installation on a separate computer", and select the download path to point to the same removable storage device as in step 3.a.
    b. Choose the Privacy Options desired.

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c. Accept the license agreement.
d. Wait for the download to complete.
e. Close the installation wizard.

6. Connect the removable storage device with the full ADK to the computer where you intend to install the ADF application.
7. Navigate to the removable storage device where the adksetup.exe and adkwinpesetup.exe files are located and follow the Online Installation steps.

ADF Smartphone Driver Pack and Apple Devices Installation

This document applies to the following applications		
ADFPRO Mobile & Computer Triage	MDI Mobile Device Investigator	

Some mobile devices drivers need to be installed to successfully connect those devices with the ADF application.
On the last screen of the ADF application installer, you have the option to install such drivers by checking the “Install common Android and iOS USB drivers” option. When selecting this option, the ADF Smartphone Driver Pack installer will start and you can follow the onscreen instructions.
If you decide to install these drivers at a later point, you can find the ADF Smartphone Driver Pack installer in C:\Program Files\ADF Solutions Inc\ADF Digital Evidence Investigator\Driver Pack\ (ADF PRO and DEI) or C:\Program Files\ADF Solutions Inc\ADF Mobile Device Investigator\Driver Pack\ (MDI).

In addition to these drivers, you must install Apple Devices to connect to iOS devices and make sure the Bonjour service is running. You can find Apple Devices from this page and download the Bonjour service from this page.

Audio/Video Codecs

Starting with version 6.4.0, the ADF application uses its own built-in decoders to play video and audio files when reviewing a scan result and when creating mobile device screen recordings. Third-party codec packs, such as LAV Filters, are no longer required.
If the application reports that a video or audio file could not be played, the file may be damaged or use a format that is not supported. You can still open it in an external player with the Open with button of the Details Pane.

Automatic Software Update

Internet connected workstations will check for new versions when the application is started. When a new version is detected it will automatically be downloaded. When closing the application a prompt will appear to install the latest version or keep the current version on the workstation.

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It is also possible to see if a new version is available in the Home > Settings > Software Update menu.

Data Migration

The latest version will automatically migrate custom-made Search Profiles, file Captures, and Scan Results from the previous versions.



You should contact support@adfsolutions.com if you are trying to upgrade from a version prior to DEI 1.3.x or Triage-Investigator/Triage-G2 4.3.x.



It can take up to 20 minutes to migrate file Captures containing millions of hash values!

Licensing

The ADF application requires a valid license file to run and to run scans. This license file ensures that only authorized users can use the application.

A license file can be stored in the following places:

- A USB Authentication Key (AK). They are only used to store an ADF license file. The license file only works for the unique serial number of that AK.
- A USB Collection Key (CK). They are mostly used to run a scan directly on a target computer and it can also store an ADF license file. The license file only works for the unique serial number of that CK.
- Saved on the workstation where the ADF application is installed. By default the folder is C:\ProgramData\ADF Solutions Inc\v4\LicBackup. The license file only works for the unique computer identifier of that workstation. This computer identifier is visible in the Settings menu.
- Borrowed in the form of a temporary token from the Token Server when working with the NETRIX™ system.

All license files are backed-up in the folder defined in the Data Paths paragraph of the Configuring the ADF Application guide.

How to Obtain a New License File

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Make sure you are authorized to request a license file as this operation will decrease the amount of license files available.

To know how many licenses are available in your license batch, enter your Support Code in this page.

Here are the steps to obtain a new license file:

1. Find your **Support Code**. This information was provided when purchasing the ADF application.
2. Decide which device you wish to license between the USB Authentication Key or your workstation.

Note that once the license has been created it is **not** possible to move it to another device.

3. To obtain your license file from an **online** ADF application:
    a. Start the ADF application.
    b. Wait for the message box that indicates that no license was found and click on the OBTAIN LICENSE button.
    c. Fill up the First Name, Last Name, Email (use your professional email only), and Support Code.
    d. Select if you would like the license file to be for this workstation (computer-locked) or for a USB Authentication Key or Collection Key. Make sure only one USB flash drive is connected.
    e. The license file will automatically be installed after a few seconds.
    f. You are now ready to use the ADF application.
4. To obtain your license file if the ADF application is on an **offline** workstation.
    a. Obtain your device hardware identifier.
        i. See the instructions to obtain the serial number from a USB flash drive.
        ii. See the instructions to obtain the computer identifier from your workstation.
    b. Navigate to https://www.adfsolutions.com/obtain-license and enter your Support Code.
        i. Once the license information is displayed, enter your First Name, Last Name, Email, select if you intend to license a USB Authentication Key or a computer, and enter hardware identifier (serial number or computer identifier).
        ii. The license file should download automatically after a few seconds.
    c. If the license file is for a USB Authentication Key or Collection Key, create a folder called CKData at the root of that drive and save the license file in it.
    d. If the license file is for your workstation, bring the file over and save it in the folder called C:\ProgramData\ADF Solutions Inc\v4\LicBackup.

How to Renew a License File

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Only renew the devices you are authorized to renew as this operation will decrease the amount of license files available.

Here are the steps to renew your license file:

1. Find your new **Support Code**. This information was provided when renewing the ADF application. Note that if you only know your old Support Code, you can also use it.
2. To renew a license file from an **online** ADF application:
    a. Start the ADF application.
    b. Navigate to **Home > Settings.** The licenses that can be renewed have a red caption "Renewal purchased. Ready to renew?" and a new Renew button is available.
    c. After clicking Renew, fill up the First Name, Last Name, Email (use your professional email only) and click CONFIRM.
    d. The license file has now been renewed.
3. To renew a license file if the ADF application is on an **offline** workstation, follow the same steps as those described to obtain a new license file (step #4 above).

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