Extended Security Updates (ESU) for Windows 7 Operating System

As you might be aware end of support for Windows 7 finished on 14th Jan 2020. Microsoft will not release any security or patch updates going forward. All businesses are required to upgrade Windows 7 to Windows 10 to secure their environment.

If you need more time to complete the upgrade of Windows 7 – You can request for ESU license from Microsoft through VLSC center. It will cost business $25 for one year per workstation to $75 for three years per workstation. During this period, you will get all the updates for Windows 7.

The ESU updates can be deployed directly using online update method or through Configuration Manager using WSUS. I will be explaining more about the update's installation through Configuration Manager.

When you obtain ESU MAK key from VLSC center – Microsoft has specified these Activation IDs for Windows clients:

Year 1: 77db037b-95c3-48d7-a3ab-a9c6d41093e0
Year 2: 0e00c25d-8795-4fb7-9572-3803d91b6880
Year 3: 4220f546-f522-46df-8202-4d07afd26454

In order to use ESU updates following requirements must be met which, I will go in detail.

1. Obtain ESU MAK key from VLSC center
2. Make sure SHAH-2 KB4474419 is installed
3. Make sure SSU KB4490628 is installed
4. Make sure SSU rollup updates KB4516655 & KB4519976 is installed
5. Create custom task sequence to install ESU MAK key & MS ESU ID – Year 1 or Year 2 or Year 3
6. Test ESU updates before rolling out
7. Deploy ESU updates to Windows 7 collection
8. Monitor ESU update status in Configuration Manager console for % completion
9. Create Automatic Deployment Rule (ADR) for ESU updates – Patch Tuesday Every Month

If you want to check whether updates (2-4) are installed – open command prompt as Administrator and run below command on Windows 7 client

wmic qfe list full /format:htable >C:\updates.htm

Open HTM file in the browser and search the table for the above KB numbers and their install status.

Now it is time to create custom task sequence to install ESU MAK key and Microsoft Activation ID and deploy to Windows 7 collection.
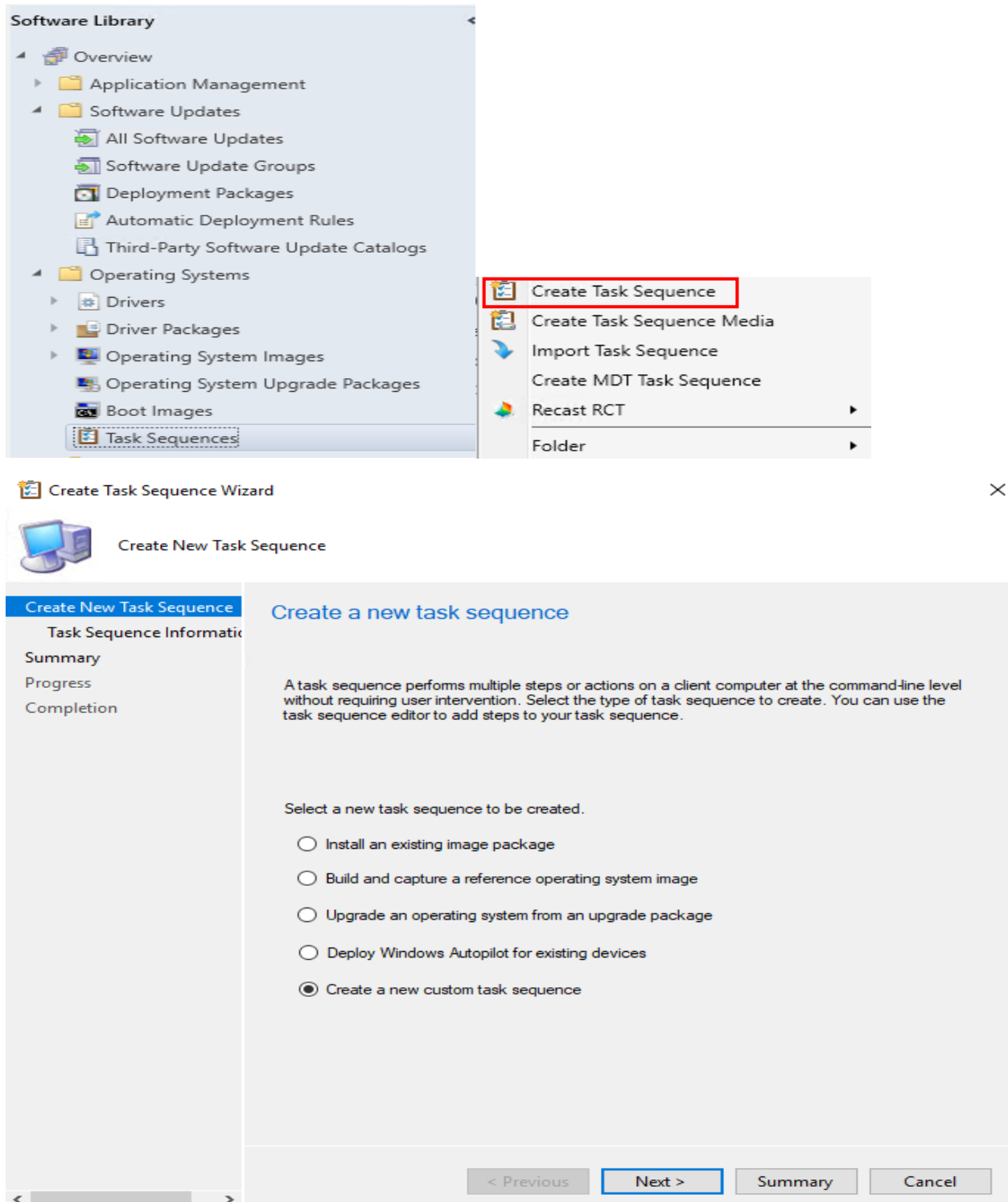
Create Task Sequence Wizard ✕

Task Sequence Information

Create New Task Sequence
   Task Sequence Informatio
Summary
Progress
Completion

Specify task sequence information

Task sequence name: ESU Pre Req Win 7

Description: This will be for Win 7 client to prep them for future ESU update installation

Boot image: [   ]   Browse...

     < Previous   Next >   Summary   Cancel

Create Task Sequence Wizard ✕

Summary

Create New Task Sequence
   Task Sequence Informatio
Summary
Progress
Completion

Confirm the settings

Details:

Verify the following task sequence details.

Create a new task sequence
- Name: ESU Pre Req Win 7
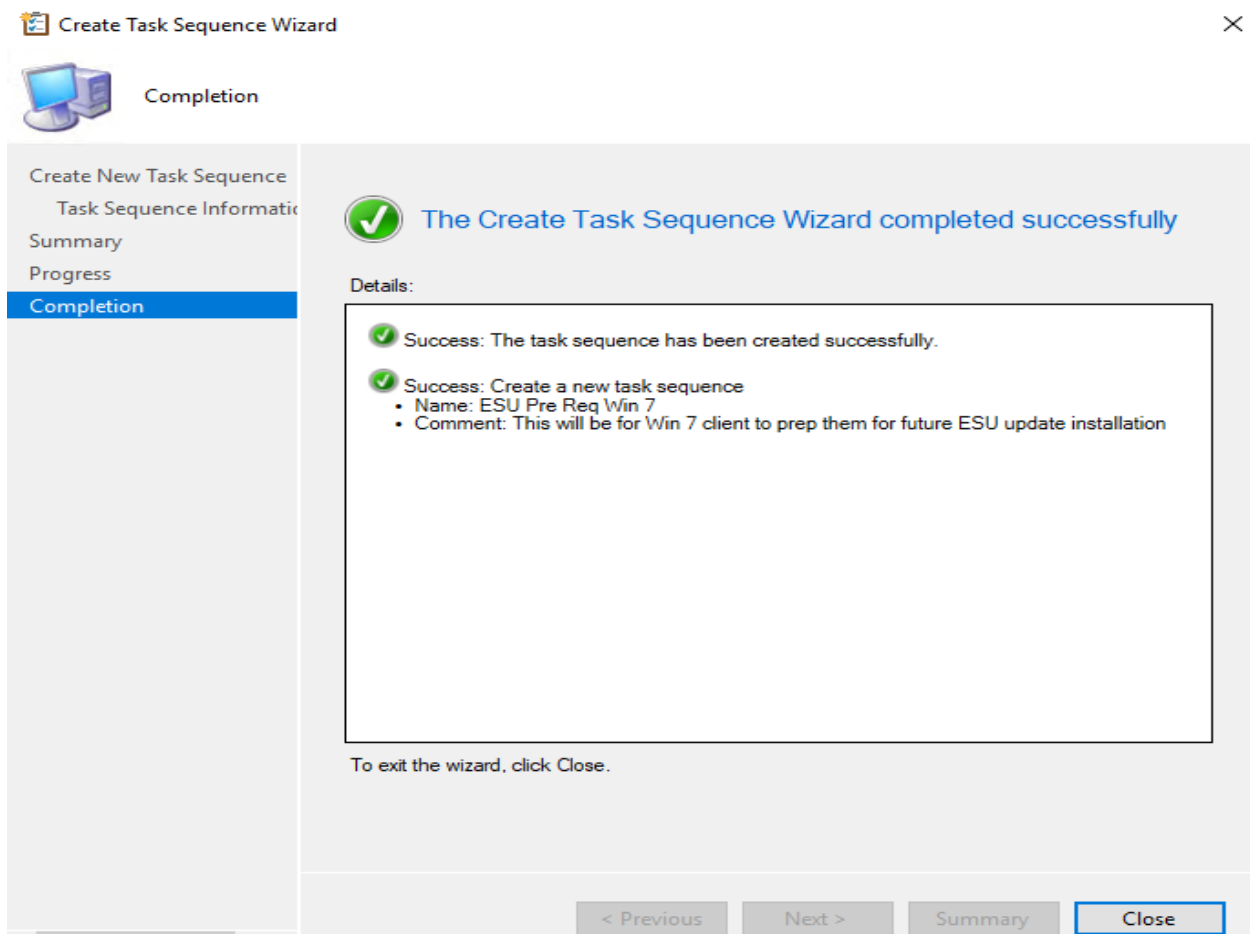- Comment: This will be for Win 7 client to prep them for future ESU update installation

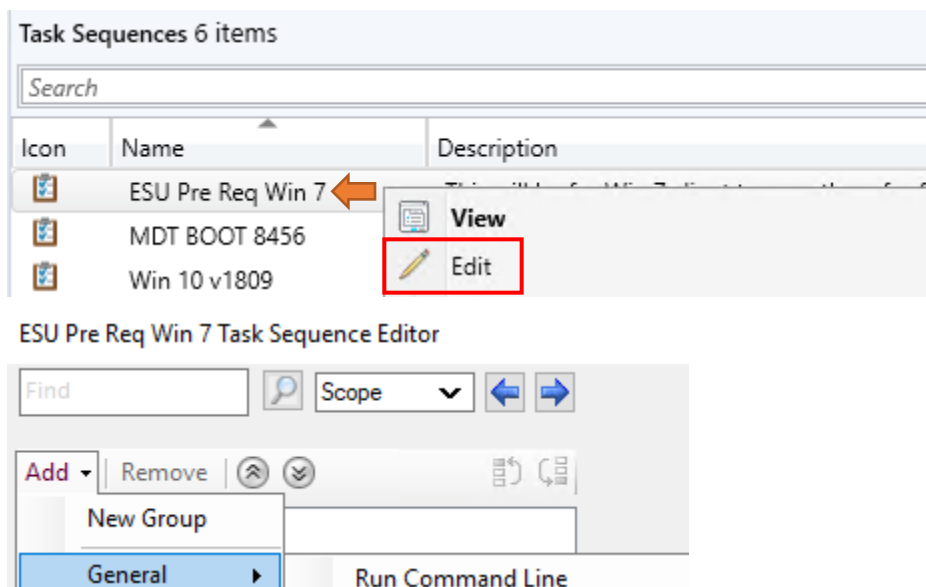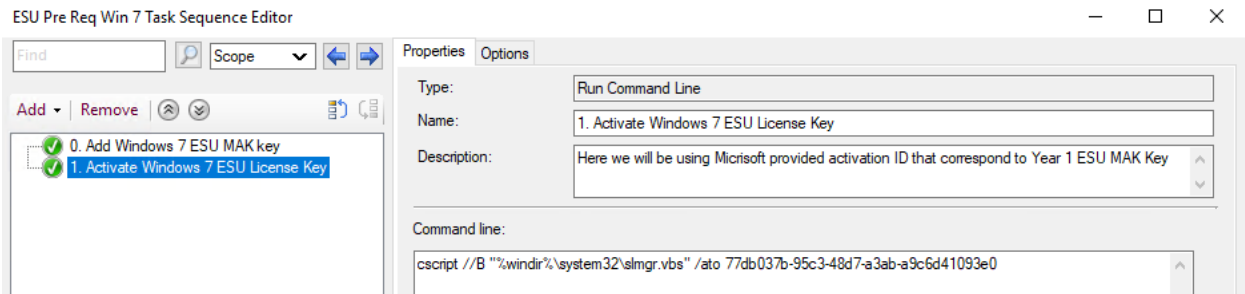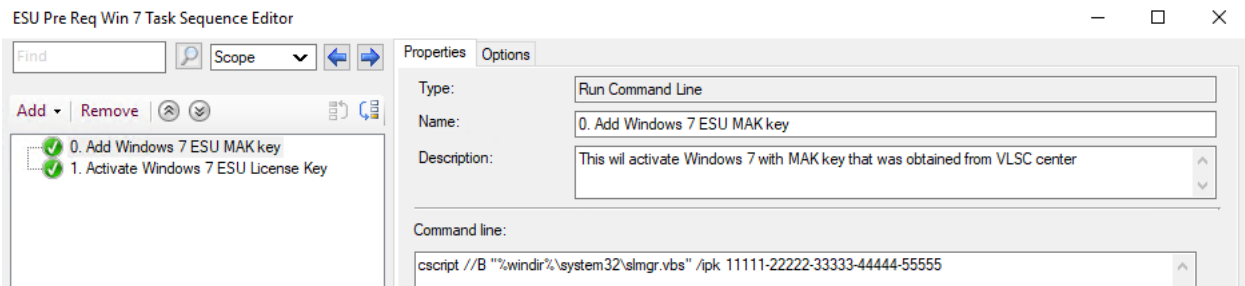To change these settings, click Previous. To apply the settings, click Next.
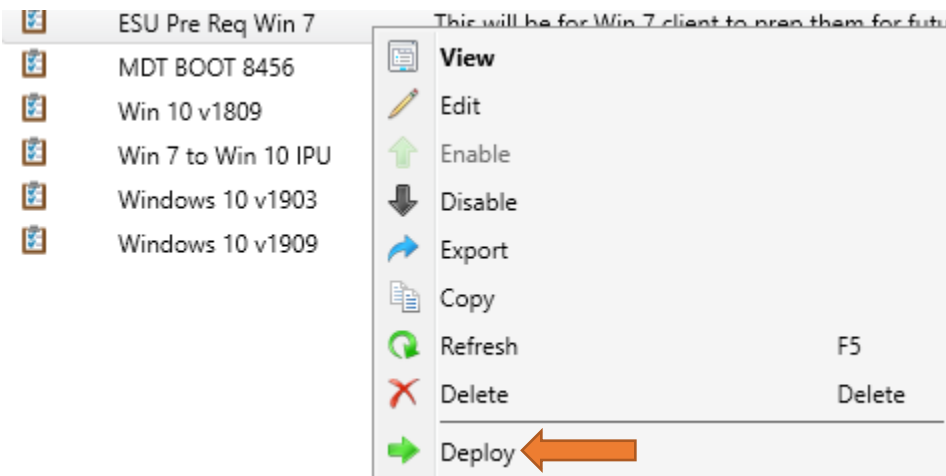
     < Previous   Next >   Summary   Cancel

Now it is time to edit the task sequence and insert run command line

ESU Pre Req Win 7 Task Sequence Editor

Find [ ] Scope [ ]

Add ▾ | Remove

- ✓ 0. Add Windows 7 ESU MAK key
- ✓ 1. Activate Windows 7 ESU License Key

Properties | Options

Type: Run Command Line

Name: 0. Add Windows 7 ESU MAK key

Description: This wil activate Windows 7 with MAK key that was obtained from VLSC center

Command line:
cscript //B "%windir%\system32\slmgr.vbs" /ipk 11111-22222-33333-44444-55555

ESU Pre Req Win 7 Task Sequence Editor

Find [ ] Scope [ ]

Add ▾ | Remove

- ✓ 0. Add Windows 7 ESU MAK key
- ✓ 1. Activate Windows 7 ESU License Key

Properties | Options

Type: Run Command Line

Name: 1. Activate Windows 7 ESU License Key

Description: Here we will be using Micrisoft provided activation ID that correspond to Year 1 ESU MAK Key

Command line:
cscript //B "%windir%\system32\slmgr.vbs" /ato 77db037b-95c3-48d7-a3ab-a9c6d41093e0

Now we have the task sequence ready for deployment to Windows 7 collection

	ESU Pre Req Win 7	This will be for Win 7 client to prep them for futu...
	MDT BOOT 8456	
	Win 10 v1809	
	Win 7 to Win 10 IPU	
	Windows 10 v1903	
	Windows 10 v1909	

- View
- Edit
- Enable
- Disable
- Export
- Copy
- Refresh   F5
- Delete   Delete
- Deploy

Deploy Software Wizard ✕

General

General	**Specify general information for this deployment**
Deployment Settings	
Scheduling	
User Experience	
Alerts	
Distribution Points	
Summary	
Progress	
Completion	

Task sequence: `ESU Pre Req Win 7`　[Browse...]

Collection: `Win 7`　[**Browse...**]

☐ Use default distribution point groups associated to this collection

☐ Automatically distribute content for dependencies

☐ Pre-download content for this task sequence

Select a previously saved deployment template that defines configuration settings for this deployment. Before you complete this wizard, you have the option to save the current configurations as a new deployment template.

[Select Deployment Template...]

Comments (optional):

[text area]

[< Previous] [Next >] [Summary] [Cancel]

Deploy Software Wizard ✕

Deployment Settings

General	**Specify settings to control how this software is deployed**
Deployment Settings	
Scheduling	
User Experience	
Alerts	
Distribution Points	
Summary	
Progress	
Completion	

Action: `Install` ▼

Purpose: `Available` ▼

Specify whether to make this task sequence available to Configuration Manager clients, and whether it is available to run when you deploy an operating system by using boot media, prestaged media, or PXE.

Make available to the following:

`Only Configuration Manager Clients` ▼

[< Previous] [Next >] [Summary] [Cancel]

Deploy Software Wizard ✕

Scheduling

General
Deployment Settings
   Scheduling
   User Experience
   Alerts
   Distribution Points
Summary
Progress
Completion

Specify the schedule for this deployment

This program will be available as soon as it has been distributed to the content servers unless it is scheduled for a later time below. For required applications, specify the assignment schedule.

☐ Schedule when this deployment will become available:

   | 15-Jan-2020 ▾ | | 10:57 AM ⇅ | ☐ UTC

☐ Schedule when this deployment will expire:

   | 15-Jan-2020 ▾ | | 10:57 AM ⇅ | ☐ UTC

Assignment schedule: [New...] [Edit...] [Delete]

                There are no items to show in this view.

Rerun behavior: Always rerun program   ▾

[< Previous] [Next >] [Summary] [Cancel]

Deploy Software Wizard ✕

User Experience

General
Deployment Settings
   Scheduling
   User Experience
   Alerts
   Distribution Points
Summary
Progress
Completion

Specify the user experience for the installation of this software on the selected devices

Notification settings:

☑ Allow users to run the program independently of assignments

☑ Show Task Sequence progress

When the scheduled assignment time is reached, allow the following activities to be performed outside the maintenance window:

☐ Software installation

☐ System restart (if required to complete the installation)

Write filter handling for Windows Embedded devices

☑ Commit changes at deadline or during a maintenance window (requires restarts)

    If this option is not selected, content will be applied on the overlay and committed later.

Internet based clients:

☐ Allow task sequence to run for client on the Internet

[< Previous] [Next >] [Summary] [Cancel]

Deploy Software Wizard — Alerts

Alerts

Specify Configuration Manager and Operations Manager alert options

General
Deployment Settings
   Scheduling
   User Experience
   Alerts
   Distribution Points
Summary
Progress
Completion

Configuration Manager generates alerts when this task sequence is deployed.

Threshold for successful deployment

☐ Create a deployment alert when the threshold is lower than the following:

Percent success: 90

After: 22-Jan -2020 ⌄ 10:57 AM

Threshold for failed deployment

☐ Create a deployment alert when the threshold is higher than the following:

Percent failure: 10

[< Previous] [Next >] [Summary] [Cancel]

Deploy Software Wizard — Distribution Points

Distribution Points

Specify how to run the content for this program

General
Deployment Settings
   Scheduling
   User Experience
   Alerts
   Distribution Points
Summary
Progress
Completion

Specify how clients interact with the distribution points to retrieve content from packages referred by the task sequence:

Deployment options:

Download content locally when needed by the running task sequence ⌄

Clients will always try to get content from distribution points in current boundary group. In addition, interaction with distribution points in neighbor boundary group can be controlled:

☐ Allow clients to use distribution points from the neighbor boundary group

When this content is not available on any distribution points in current and neighbor boundary groups, you can allow the client to use a distribution point in site default boundary group.

☐ Allow clients to use distribution points from the default site boundary group

⚠ Token based authentication (recommended) or a network access account must be configured to access content from Windows PE

[< Previous] [Next >] [Summary] [Cancel]

Deploy Software Wizard — Summary

Confirm the settings for this new deployment

Details:

Save As Template...

General
- Software: ESU Pre Req Win 7
- Collection: Win 7 (Member Count: 0)
- Use default distribution point groups associated to this collection: Disabled
- Automatically distribute content for dependencies: Disabled
- Pre-download content for this task sequence: Disabled

Deployment Settings
- Action: Install
- Purpose: Available
- Task sequence deployment option: Only Configuration Manager Clients
- Allow clients to use a metered Internet connection to download content: Disabled

Scheduling
- Schedule when this deployment will become available: Disabled
- Schedule when this deployment will expire: Disabled
- Rerun behavior: Always rerun program

User Experience
- Allow users to run the program independently of assignments: Enabled
- Software installation: Disabled
- System restart (if required to complete the installation): Disabled
- Allow task sequence to run for client on the Internet: Disabled
- Commit changes at deadline or during a maintenance window (requires restarts): Enabled
- Show Task Sequence progress: Enabled

To change these settings, click Previous. To apply the settings, click Next.

< Previous   Next >   Summary   Cancel

Deploy Software Wizard — Completion

The Deploy Software Wizard completed successfully

Details:

✅ Success: General
- Software: ESU Pre Req Win 7
- Collection: Win 7 (Member Count: 0)
- Use default distribution point groups associated to this collection: Disabled
- Automatically distribute content for dependencies: Disabled
- Pre-download content for this task sequence: Disabled

✅ Success: Deployment Settings
- Action: Install
- Purpose: Available
- Task sequence deployment option: Only Configuration Manager Clients
- Allow clients to use a metered Internet connection to download content: Disabled

✅ Success: Scheduling
- Schedule when this deployment will become available: Disabled
- Schedule when this deployment will expire: Disabled
- Rerun behavior: Always rerun program

✅ Success: User Experience
- Allow users to run the program independently of assignments: Enabled
- Software installation: Disabled
- System restart (if required to complete the installation): Disabled

To exit the wizard, click Close.

< Previous   Next >   Summary   Close

That's it. We have completed pre requirements for ESU targeting Windows 7 clients.

Thanks

Ram Lan
15th Jan 2020

Note: Extended Security Updates will be released second Tuesday of next month (Feb 2020)