

CTC SOFTWARE

A SYMETRI COMPANY

CTC Nexus™ Suite Installation and Configuration Guide

Includes:

**CMS
Ally
Project Activity Logger**

Contents

General Requirements Summary	3
Revit and Civil 3D Workstations	3
Upgrading the Software.....	4
Workstation Installation	5
Standard Interactive Installation Using the Single User Setup Program	5
Standard Interactive Installation Using the Multi-User Setup Program	10
Custom Installation (Using Command-Line Parameters).....	15
Silent Installation.....	15
Turning Off Specific Features During Silent Installs	15
Deselecting Installation of the CTC Access Application	16
Updating the Software.....	16
Launching CMS.....	16
Detecting the Version Installed	17
Digitally Signed Code	18
CTC Certificate Installer Utility	18
Managing the Revit Ribbon Tab Used	20
Managing the Account Button Visibility	21
Managing the Contact Support Button Visibility	22
Workstation Uninstallation.....	23
Using Apps.....	23
Silent Uninstallation Using a Command Line	24

CTC Nexus Overview

IMPORTANT: There are two separate installers available for CTC Nexus: 1) the “single user” installer and 2) the “multi-user” installer. Both of these installers will be discussed in this document. The “single user” installer allows you to install and run the software without requiring you to have administrative privileges on the computer, however, only the user who ran the installer will see and can use the software. Other users on the same computer will each have to install the software for themselves. The “multi-user” installer requires administrative privileges to install it on the computer, but then any user who logs into the computer can use the software.

IMPORTANT: All products available from CTC Software are available in “single user” and “multi-user” types, however **you must only use one of these types on any single computer**. You may not, for example, have the multi-user Nexus software installed and the single user CTC BIM Suites software installed on the same computer at the same time.

WARNING: Installing a multi-user installer will remove all single user installs for all users on the workstation. While a user that had the single user version installed will still see it appear in their Apps list, the single user software will get disabled by the multi-user installer.

The CTC Nexus software contains an extremely powerful Content Management System (CMS) to help you effectively and efficiently manage content files, with a focus on design software content files such as for Revit or Civil 3D.

It also contains a project standards analyzer tool called Ally, as well as the Project Activity Logger which can be used to run reports on how projects are being used, and catch problematic changes to the projects early.

General Requirements Summary

The single user installer **DOES NOT** need to be run by someone who is logged in with administrative privileges on the computer to which the software is being installed. The multi-user installer **DOES** need to be run by someone who is logged in with administrative privileges.

Revit and Civil 3D Workstations

In accordance with Autodesk standards for addins, during the installation the user does not get to choose where the software will be installed on their local hard drives.

The addins will get installed to folders like the following examples:

For Revit (single user installer) –

%AppData%\Autodesk\Revit\addins\202x

For Revit (multi-user installer) –

%ProgramData%\Autodesk\Revit\addins\202x

For Civil 3D (single user installer) –

%AppData%\Autodesk\ApplicationPlugins\CTC-CMS-202x.bundle\Contents

For Civil 3D (multi-user installer) –

%ProgramData%\Autodesk\ApplicationPlugins\CTC-CMS-202x.bundle\Contents

Where %AppData% is the user's personal roaming folder and %ProgramData% is the ProgramData folder (typically C:\ProgramData).

This folder will also contain key files for CMS (single user installer):

%AppData%\CTC Software\CTC Nexus Suite\CMS

This folder will also contain key files for CMS (multi-user installer):

%ProgramData%\CTC Software\CTC Nexus Suite\CMS

The following folders will also contain files needed by the CTC Software suites:

%AppData%\CTC Software

C:\Users\Public\CTC Software

C:\Users\Public\CTC Software\License Settings

Upgrading the Software

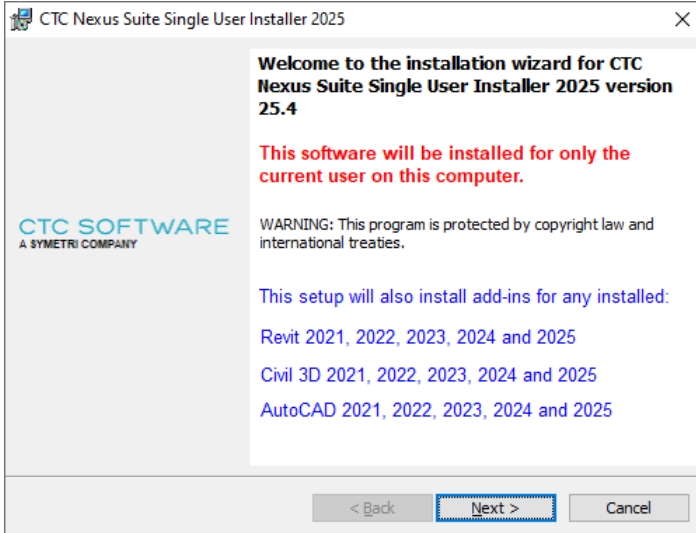
When upgrading a workstation to a new release, typically manually uninstalling an old version is NOT required. Running the latest setup is all that should normally be needed. It will replace the previous version with the new version.

Workstation Installation

Standard Interactive Installation Using the Single User Setup Program

A standard installation simply involves running the interactive setup program, accepting all of the default values. This setup can be installed by any user, whether they have Administrative privileges or not, but it will only install the software for that one user. To install the software for multiple users on the same computer requires Administrative privileges, requires using the Multi-User setup program instead, and is discussed in the next section.

Double-click the installation **CTCNexusSuiteSingleUserSetup.msi** file to begin the installation process. First, you should see a screen that looks like this:

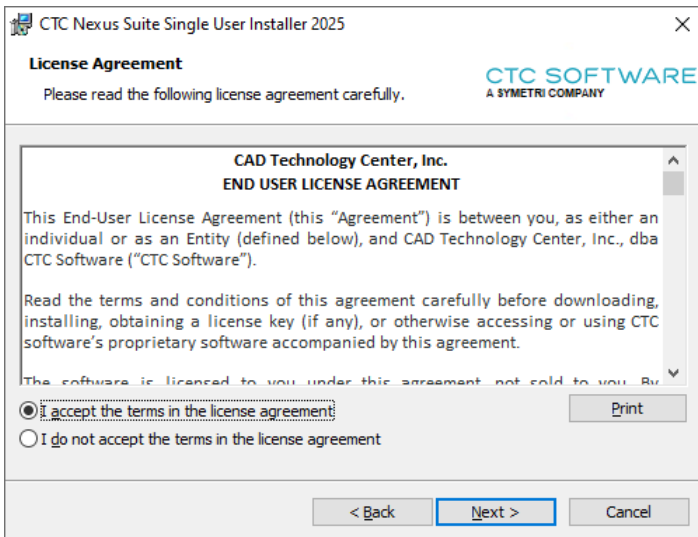


Click the Next button.

NOTE: At this point if Revit or Civil 3D is running, you will be required to shut them down before you can proceed.

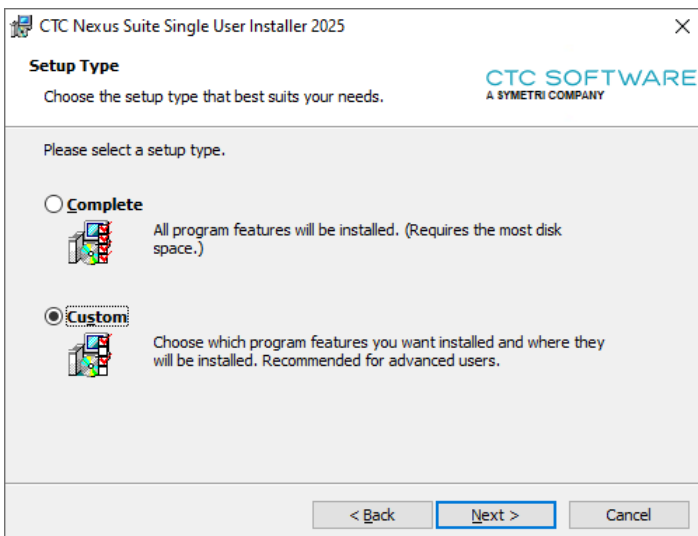
NOTE: At this point if there is conflicting CTC Software installed, you will be told it needs to be uninstalled. Most of the time the installer can uninstall them for you if you happen to have administrative privileges on the computer. If not, an administrator must uninstall them before you can proceed. CTC *does* have updates to all products that will work with this installer, as needed.

Once all prerequisites have been met, the next screen will appear:

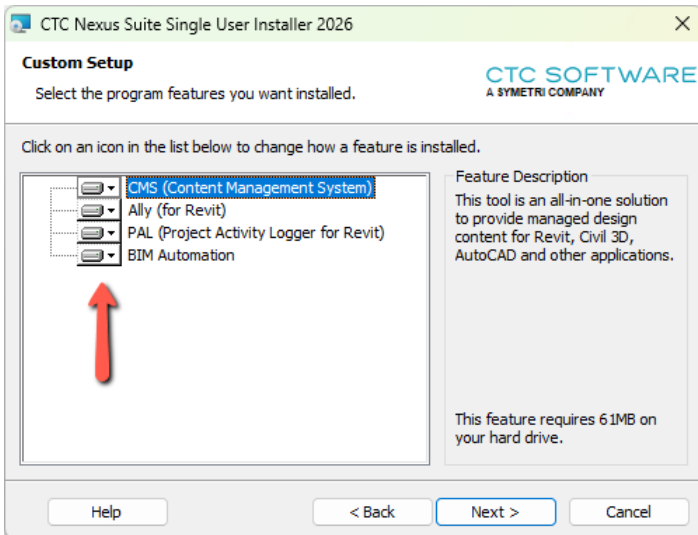


This is the license agreement screen. In order to be able to move forward with the installation, you must read the software license agreement and then click the “I accept the terms in the license agreement” option. You will then be allowed to click the “Next” button, which needs to be done to proceed with the installation.

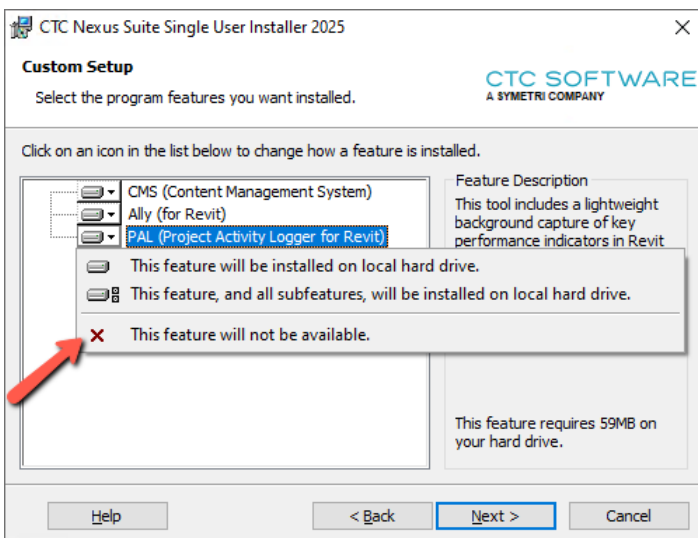
The next screen lets you control which components are installed. If you choose the “Complete” option, all the components in this setup will be installed for you. If you choose the “Custom” option, you will have the ability to turn on or off each component, as desired:



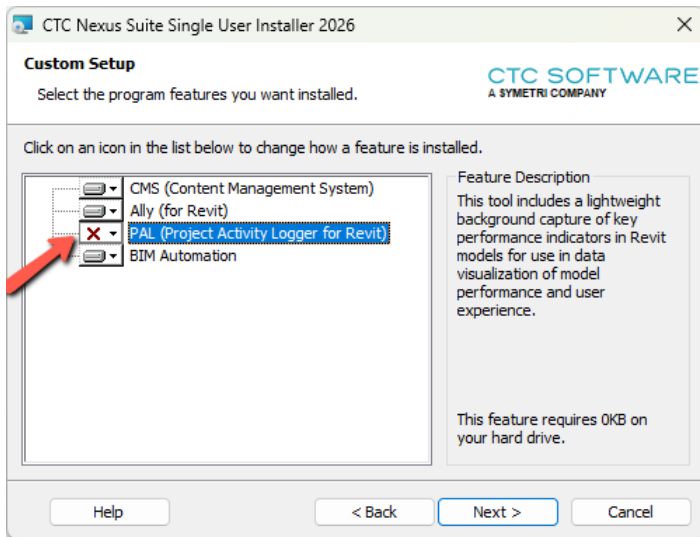
When the Custom option is selected, clicking the Next button, by default, as is the case with the normal “Complete” option, we can see that all products will be installed:



To turn off a product, click the dropdown button next to it and select the “This feature will not be available” choice. For example, if we want to turn off (select to not install) the PAL component, we would click the down arrow button next to it (seen above), then:



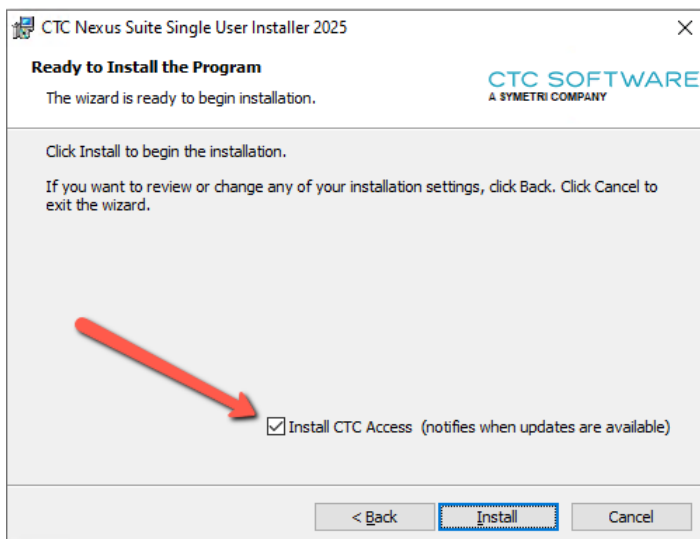
Once “This feature will not be available” choice is selected, PAL will be marked as not to be installed.



In this example, moving forward all the components except PAL will be installed.

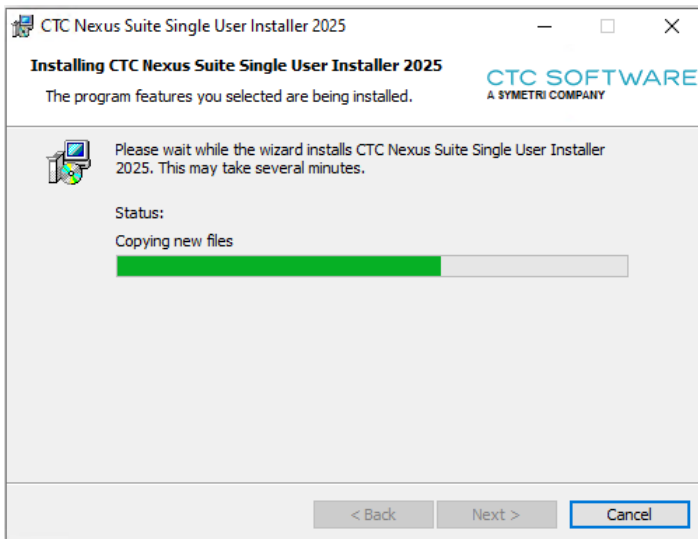
Next is the standard confirmation screen. It provides one last chance to cancel this process without anything being installed. It also shows you the option to install the *CTC Access* application.

The *CTC Access* application is a separate tool which will alert the user when new versions of applications from CTC Software become available, and will make it easy for the user to download those updates.



IMPORTANT: Uninstalling CTC Nexus Suite will not uninstall the *CTC Access* application. It must be uninstalled separately.

Click the “Next” button to proceed. The screen during the actual installation should look like this:

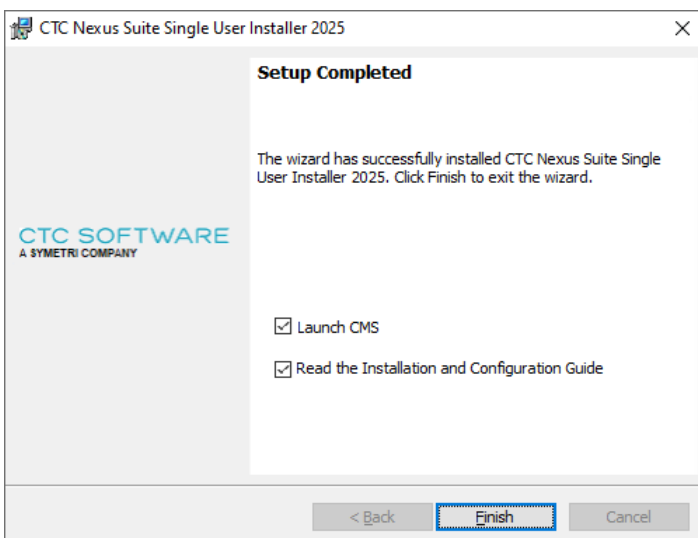


A file called CTCInstallLog.txt can be found in the installation folder once the setup completes.

%AppData%\CTC Software\CTC Nexus Suite

Checking that log can be useful when verifying something like a silent installation (discussed below) worked correctly.

When the installation is complete, the final screen should look like this:



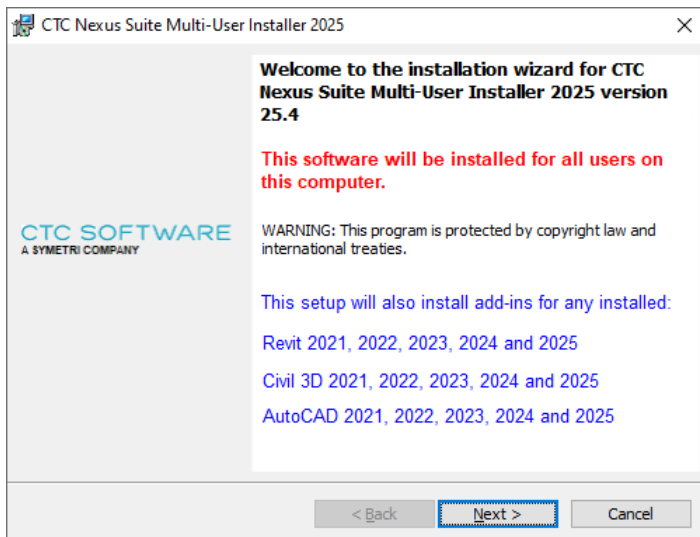
Click the “Finish” button to complete the installation process.

If the “Launch CMS” checkbox option is selected, the CMS tool will be opened. If the “Read the Installation and Configuration Guide” is selected, this document will be displayed.

Standard Interactive Installation Using the Multi-User Setup Program

A standard installation simply involves running the interactive setup program, accepting all of the default values, and then starting up Revit. **This setup can only be installed if the user has Administrative privileges on the computer.** It will install the software for all users that login to the computer. To install the software without requiring Administrative privileges on the computer requires running the Single User installer instead, which is discussed in the previous section. That installer will only install the software for the current user who runs that setup.

Double-click the installation **CTCNexusSuiteMultiUserSetup.msi** file to begin the installation process. First, you should see a screen that looks like this:

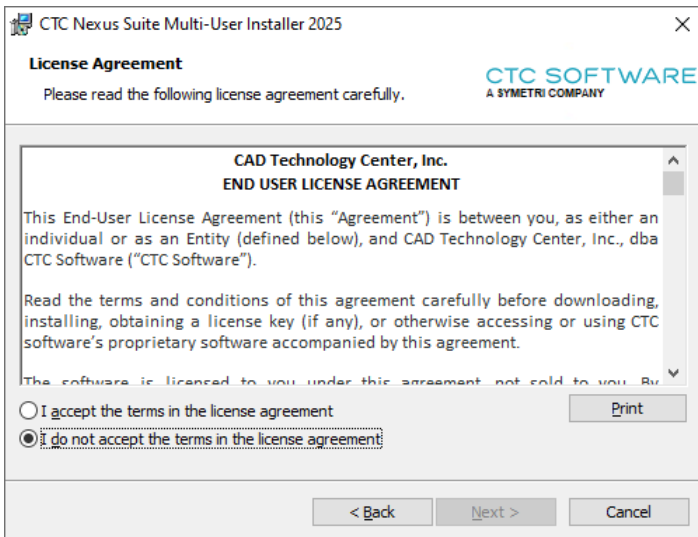


Click the Next button.

NOTE: At this point if Revit or Civil 3D is running, you will be required to shut them down before you can proceed.

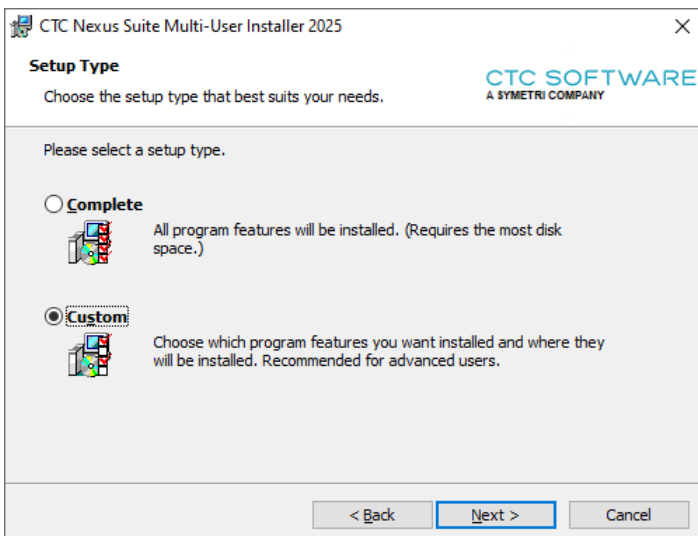
NOTE: At this point if there is conflicting CTC Software installed, you will be told it needs to be uninstalled. Most of the time the installer can uninstall them for you if you happen to have administrative privileges on the computer. If not, an administrator must uninstall them before you can proceed. CTC *does* have updates to all products that will work with this installer, as needed.

Once all prerequisites have been met, the next screen will appear:

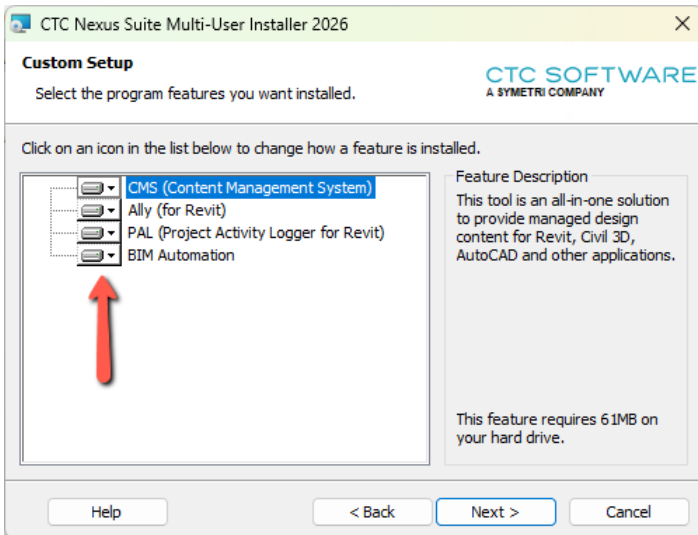


This is the license agreement screen. In order to be able to move forward with the installation, you must read the software license agreement and then click the “I accept the terms in the license agreement” option. You will then be allowed to click the “Next” button, which needs to be done to proceed with the installation.

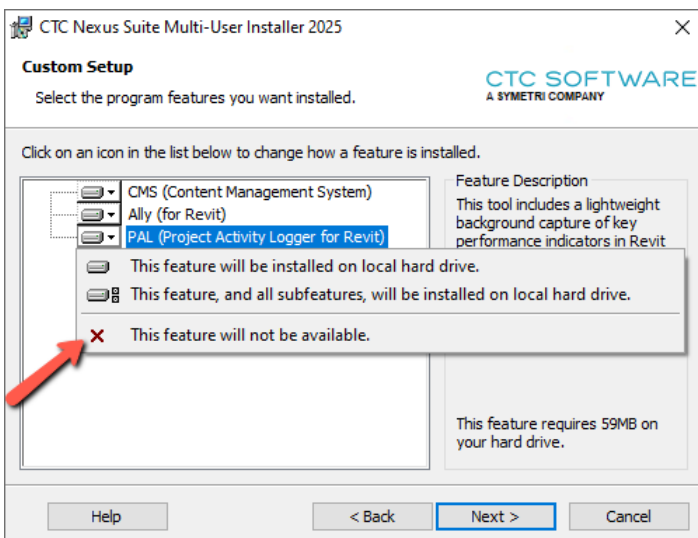
The next screen lets you control which components are installed. If you choose the “Complete” option, all the components in this setup will be installed for you. If you choose the “Custom” option, you will have the ability to turn on or off each component, as desired:



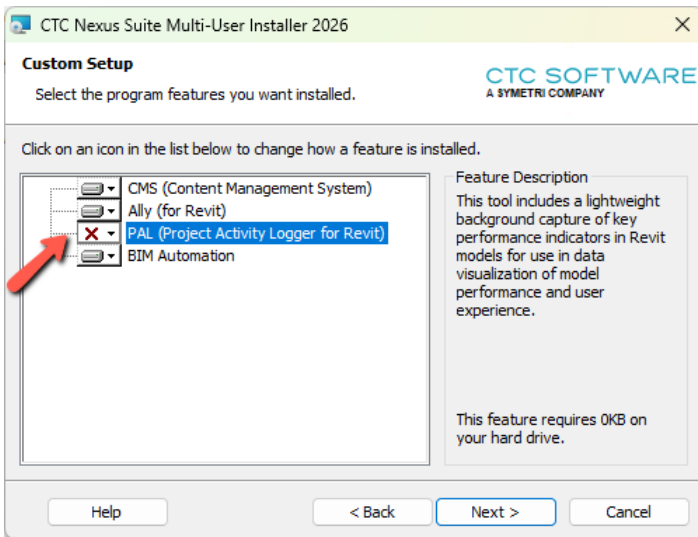
When the Custom option is selected, clicking the Next button, by default, as is the case with the normal “Complete” option, we can see that all products will be installed:



To turn off a product, click the dropdown button next to it and select the “This feature will not be available” choice. For example, if we want to turn off (select to not install) the PAL component, we would click the down arrow button next to it (seen above), then:



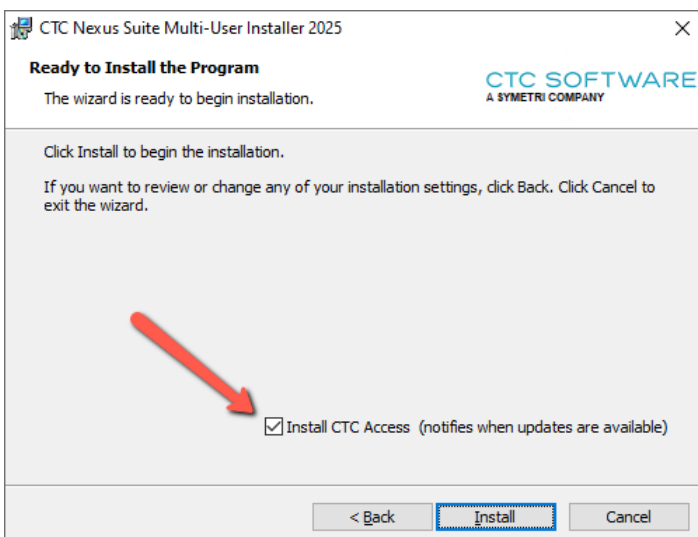
Once “This feature will not be available” choice is selected, PAL will be marked as not to be installed.



In this example, moving forward all the components except PAL will be installed.

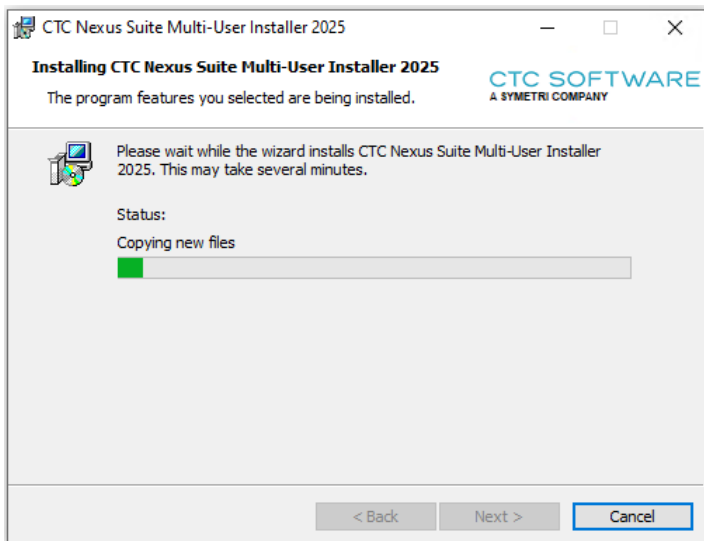
Next is the standard confirmation screen. It provides one last chance to cancel this process without anything being installed. It also shows you the option to install the *CTC Access* application.

The *CTC Access* application is a separate tool which will alert the user when new versions of applications from CTC Software become available, and will make it easy for the user to download those updates.



IMPORTANT: Uninstalling CTC Nexus Suite will not uninstall the *CTC Access* application. It must be uninstalled separately.

Click the “Next” button to proceed. The screen during the actual installation should look like this:

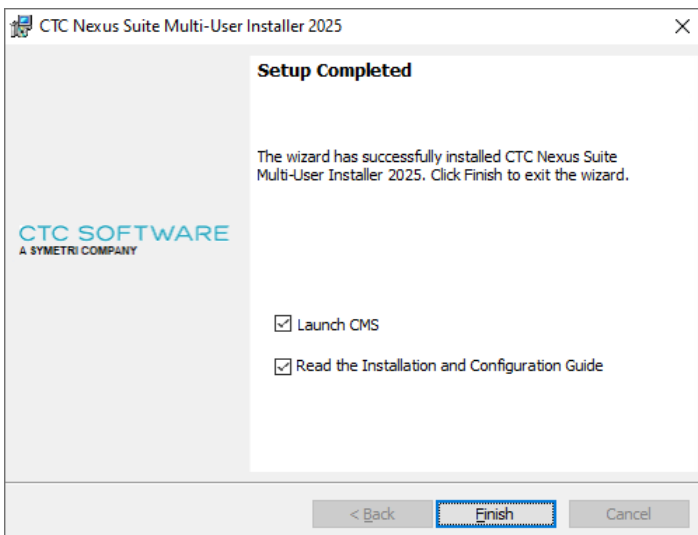


A file called CTCInstallLog.txt can be found in the installation folder once the setup completes.

%ProgramData%\CTC Software\CTC Nexus Suite

Checking that log can be useful when verifying something like a silent installation (discussed below) worked correctly.

When the installation is complete, the final screen should look like this:



Click the “Finish” button to complete the installation process.

If the “Launch CMS” checkbox option is selected, the CMS tool will be opened. If the “Read the Installation and Configuration Guide” is selected, this document will be displayed.

Custom Installation (Using Command-Line Parameters)

IMPORTANT: For any installer action to be successful, you must make sure ALL running instances of Revit, Civil 3D and AutoCAD are shut down. Any running instance of these may prevent the action from working correctly.

Silent Installation

The msi installers for the workstations support performing silent installations. A silent installation does not show any dialogs on the screen during the install.

IMPORTANT: While a non-silent (interactive) installation of CTC Nexus will cleanly remove older conflicting products which had separate installers, this is not the case for a silent installation. If you plan to do a silent installation of CTC Nexus, CTC Software **strongly** recommends uninstalling any old conflicting products first. While if you are an administrator on the computer when the **silent** installation of CTC Nexus is run, it will render the old products inactive, they will remain on the Apps list for the computer. It is much cleaner to uninstall the old products first before installing CTC Nexus silently. The old products can be uninstalled silently as well. Uninstalling old products is not necessary if simply upgrading to a newer version of the same product.

A silent installation is accomplished by using the command-line parameter: /q

For example, the command to install the software silently would be one of these:

Single user installer: **msiexec /i CTCNexusSuiteSingleUserSetup.msi /q**

Multi-user installer: **msiexec /i CTCNexusSuiteMultiUserSetup.msi /q**

IMPORTANT: By choosing to do a silent installation, you are automatically agreeing to the software license agreement.

The silent installation may take a minute or so to complete.

Turning Off Specific Features During Silent Installs

By default, as is consistent with the interactive installer, all features will be installed when doing a silent installation. However, individual features can be turned off during silent installs as well, using additional command-line parameters.

Feature to Not Install	Parameter
CMS (Content Management System)	deselect_cms=1
Ally	deselect_ally=1
PAL (Project Activity Logger)	deselect_pal=1
BIM Automation	deselect_ba=1

So for example, if during the silent installation we want to not install Ally and also not install Project Activity Logger, we would give a command like the following:

Single user installer example: **msiexec /i CTCNexusSuiteSingleUserSetup.msi /q deselect_ally=1 deselect_pal=1**

Multi-user installer example: **msiexec /i CTCNexusSuiteMultiUserSetup.msi /q deselect_ally=1 deselect_pal=1**

IMPORTANT: If you want to silently add or remove a feature after the software has already been installed, **you must silently uninstall the software and silently reinstall it with different command-line arguments.** Running a repair or re-running the installer with a command-line like that above, but with different parameters, will NOT change which features are installed.

Deselecting Installation of the CTC Access Application

By default, the *CTC Access* application will be installed during this installation process. The *CTC Access* tool provides alerts to users when new versions of applications from CTC Software become available, and make it easy for the user to download those updates. You can prevent this application from being installed when running this installer by providing the following command line parameter: `installctcaccess=0`

For example:

Single user installer example: `msiexec /i CTCNexusSuiteSingleUserSetup.msi /q installctcaccess=0`

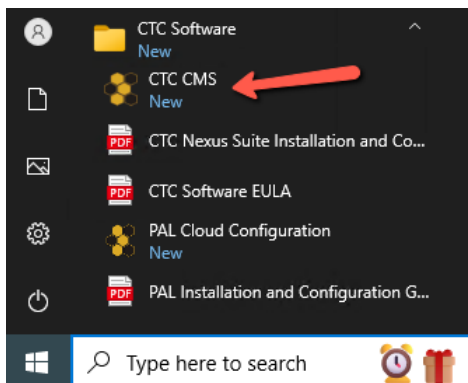
Multi-user installer example: `msiexec /i CTCNexusSuiteMultiUserSetup.msi /q installctcaccess=0`

Updating the Software

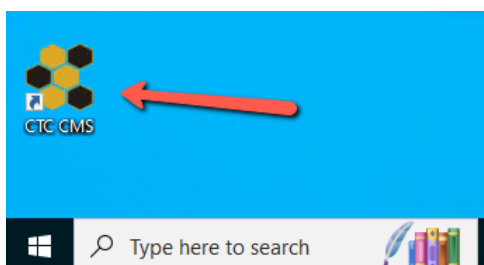
When updating a workstation to a new release of the software, typically uninstalling an old version is NOT required. Running the latest setup is all that should be needed.

Launching CMS

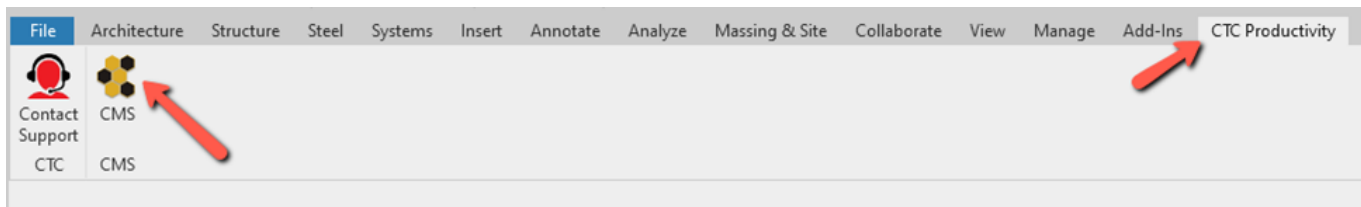
CMS can be launched by the user from either the Start menu (under the *CTC Software* folder):



Or from the desktop directly:



CMS can also be launched from within Revit, from the ribbon:



Detecting the Version Installed

A text file called "SuiteVersion.txt" with only the software version (e.g. "25.0") in it can be found in the installation folder.

Single user installer example: **%AppData%\CTC Software\CTC Nexus Suite\CMS\SuiteVersion.txt**

Multi-user installer example: **%ProgramData%\CTC Software\CTC Nexus Suite\CMS\SuiteVersion.txt**

The contents of this file may be useful for easily checking to see which version is installed via a script.

Digitally Signed Code

All CTC Express Tools add-ins are digitally signed. The MSI setup programs from CTC will automatically install the CTC digital certificate file into the Windows Trusted Publishers certificates section for the computer.

If the CTC add-ins are deployed using another method, such as if embedded in an Autodesk deployment, the CTC certificate will NOT automatically get installed into Windows, and the user will be prompted to allow the CTC add-in to load the first time they launch the Autodesk product.

The CTC digital certificate file, CTCCodeSigningCertificate.cer, can be found in the main installation folder:

Single user installer example: %AppData%\CTC Software\CTC Nexus Suite

Multi-user installer example: %ProgramData%\CTC Software\CTC Nexus Suite

This file can be added to the Trusted Publisher's store in any normal manner, for example via Group Policy.

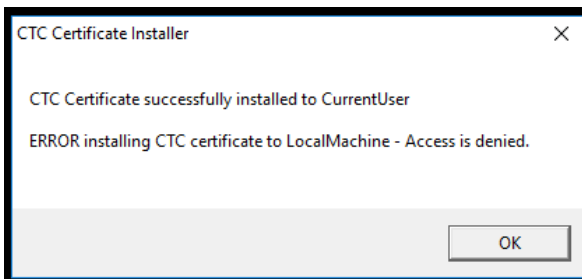
CTC Certificate Installer Utility

CTC also provides a small utility to add the CTC Certificate to Windows, which can be used for non-MSI deployments. This program is called **CTCCertificateInstaller.exe** and is located in the same folder as the certificate file, as seen above.

IMPORTANT: For this program to work, the CTCCodeSigningCertificate.cer certificate file must be in the same folder as this program.

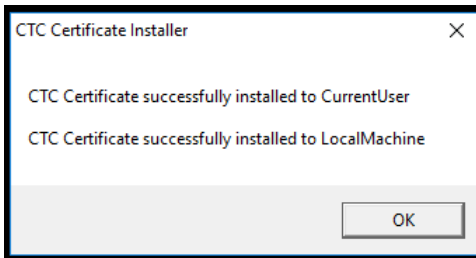
In order for this program to install the certificate such that it will work for all users who login to the computer, it must be run with the highest privileges (e.g. run "As Administrator"). If it is not run "As Administrator" it will only install the certificate for the currently logged in user.

When run as a regular user, a window appears when complete showing this:



In this case, when the current user starts up the Autodesk product(s), no messages from Autodesk will interrupt the startup process for any CTC products. However, if another user logs into this machine, they will see the dialog asking what to do with the signed add-in that was found, as seen above.

When the program is run "As Administrator", a window appears when complete showing this:



In this case, regardless of who logs into the computer, the Autodesk product for the add-ins will open smoothly, without asking the user what to do.

The CTCCertificateInstaller.exe program supports the following command-line parameters:

/Q – quiet. In quiet mode, no dialog window is ever displayed.

/L – Log file location. If a log file is specified, the results seen in the example dialogs above will be written to a new text file specified, overwriting any previous file that may have been there previously.

Example:

```
CTCCertificateInstaller.exe /Q /L "C:\My Folder\My Cert Installer Log File.txt"
```

(The /Q and /L may be lowercase)

Managing the Revit Ribbon Tab Used

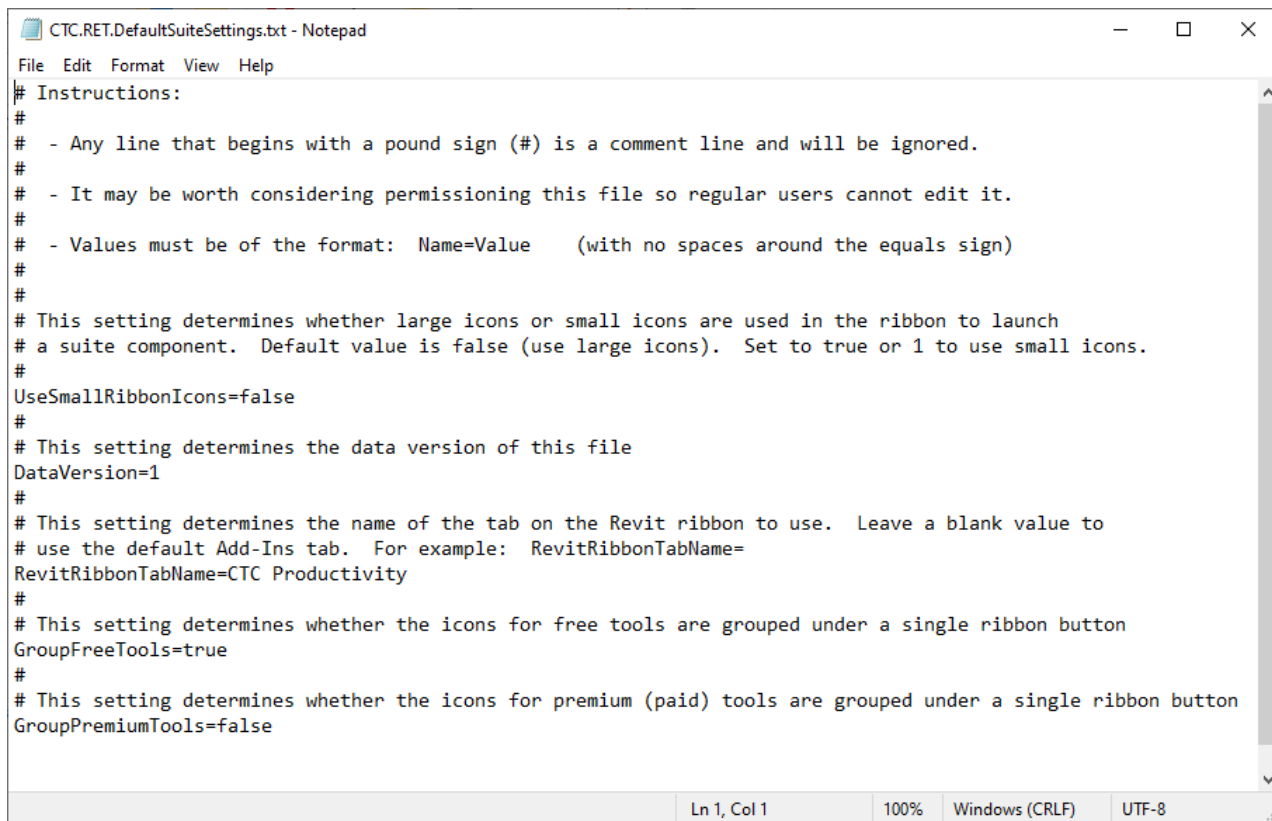
The settings for ribbon button icon appearance, including on which Revit ribbon tab they appear, are stored in the text file ending in *Icon Settings.txt* in this folder:

Single user installer: %AppData%\CTC Software\CTC Nexus Suite\CMS Common Files

Multi-user installer: %ProgramData%\CTC Software\CTC Nexus Suite\CMS Common Files

This file will not appear until Revit is started the first time after the software is installed. These settings will apply regardless of which version of Revit is launched, and **will not** be overwritten if an updated version of the software is installed.

The default file looks like this:

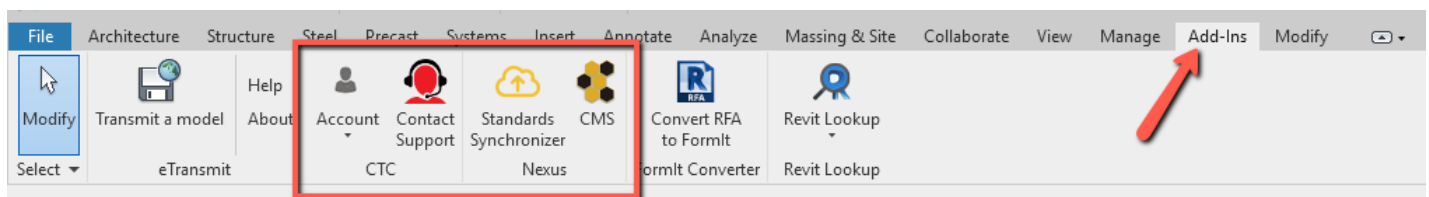


```
CTC.RET.DefaultSuiteSettings.txt - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
# Instructions:
#
# - Any line that begins with a pound sign (#) is a comment line and will be ignored.
# - It may be worth considering permissioning this file so regular users cannot edit it.
# - Values must be of the format: Name=Value (with no spaces around the equals sign)
#
# This setting determines whether large icons or small icons are used in the ribbon to launch
# a suite component. Default value is false (use large icons). Set to true or 1 to use small icons.
#
UseSmallRibbonIcons=false
#
# This setting determines the data version of this file
DataVersion=1
#
# This setting determines the name of the tab on the Revit ribbon to use. Leave a blank value to
# use the default Add-Ins tab. For example: RevitRibbonTabName=
RevitRibbonTabName=CTC Productivity
#
# This setting determines whether the icons for free tools are grouped under a single ribbon button
GroupFreeTools=true
#
# This setting determines whether the icons for premium (paid) tools are grouped under a single ribbon button
GroupPremiumTools=false
Ln 1, Col 1 100% Windows (CRLF) UTF-8
```

For example, this setting:

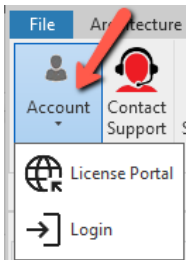
RevitRibbonTabName=

puts the buttons on the default Add-Ins tab, and appears this way in Revit:



Managing the Account Button Visibility

The *Account* button can be controlled:



The first time Revit is run with a CTC suite installed, a configuration file is created which controls the visibility of this button, and of its sub buttons:

C:\Users\Public\CTC Software\Suite Settings\Account Settings.xml

This file affects all Revit users on the workstation. It looks like this:

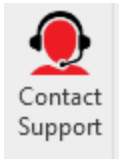
```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<CTCAccountSettings xmlns:xsd="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema" xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance">
  <Version>1</Version>
  <CTCAccountButtonVisible>true</CTCAccountButtonVisible>
  <CTCVisitPortalButtonVisible>true</CTCVisitPortalButtonVisible>
  <CTCLoginLogoutButtonVisible>true</CTCLoginLogoutButtonVisible>
</CTCAccountSettings>
```

Changing these values from “true” to “false” will hide them on the ribbon.

If this file is deployed to Revit workstations before the first time Revit is run with a CTC suite installed, the deployed file will be used. Errors in the file will result in the button being displayed, which is the default behavior.

Managing the Contact Support Button Visibility

The *Contact Support* button can be found on the Revit ribbon:



The first time Revit is run with a CTC suite installed, a configuration file is created which controls the visibility of this button:

C:\Users\Public\CTC Software\Suite Settings>Contact Support Settings.xml

Which looks like this:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"
<CTCSupportSettings xmlns:xsd="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema" xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance">
  <Version>1</Version>
  <CTCSupportButtonVisible>true</CTCSupportButtonVisible>
  <CTCSupportURL>https://ctcsoftware.com/support</CTCSupportURL>
</CTCSupportSettings>
```

As some organizations may want to control how support for Revit users is handled (e.g. internally) this tool can be turned off.

Changing the highlighted value to: **false**

will prevent this button from being visible in either the ribbon or from within the tools.

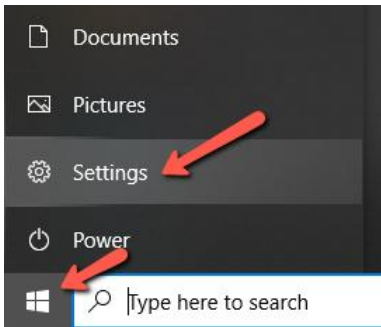
If this file is deployed to Revit workstations before the first time Revit is run with a CTC suite installed, the deployed file will be used. Errors in the file will result in the button being displayed, which is the default behavior.

Workstation Uninstallation

Nexus can be uninstalled using the standard method of using the Apps tool built into Windows.

Using Apps

Click Start / Settings:



Click on Apps:



Search for: CTC

Then select the Nexus result:

Apps & features

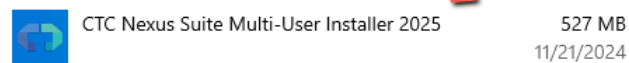
App execution aliases

Search, sort, and filter by drive. If you would like to uninstall or move an app, select it from the list.



Sort by: Name ▾ Filter by: All drives ▾

1 app found



Then select the Uninstall choice to begin the uninstallation process.

Silent Uninstallation Using a Command Line

You can give a command like the following to uninstall the software from a workstation:

Single user installer: **msiexec /x CTCNexusSuiteSingleUserSetup.msi /q**

Multi-user installer: **msiexec /x CTCNexusSuiteMultiUserSetup.msi /q**

This could be executed from a script or possibly pushed out via a group policy.

IMPORTANT: The original msi file used to install the software must be in the current working directory when this command is executed, or the path to it must be explicitly specified in the command line.

Note that the silent uninstall may take a full minute or two to finish.