

# Automatic deployment of dtSearch on a Network

## System Requirements

Automatic deployment requires network software that can automatically deploy Windows Installer (MSI) files. If you are deploying to computers that all have Windows 2000 or Windows XP, you can use Group Policy Objects in Microsoft's Active Directory to do this. On networks that also include Windows NT, ME, 98, or 95 machines, you can use Microsoft SMS.

Two MSI files are used for automatic deployment: the dtSearchDesktop.msi file, which contains the program files, and the dtSearchPolicy.msi file, which contains the settings for your network installation. These files can be deployed and redeployed separately, so you can upgrade your dtSearch installation without losing your settings, and you can update your settings without the need to reinstall dtSearch.

## Steps to deploy dtSearch

1. Obtain the dtSearchDesktop.msi file that installs dtSearch Desktop.
2. Create one or more shared index libraries on a network share.
3. Create one or more shared indexes on a network share.
4. Create a dtSearchPolicy.msi file that will configure your users' machines with information about the location of the shared index libraries.
5. Use Active Directory or Microsoft SMS to deploy the dtSearchDesktop.msi and dtSearchPolicy.msi files to your users.

Each of these steps is described below.

1. Obtain the dtSearchDesktop.msi file that installs dtSearch Desktop.

dtSearchDesktop.msi will be on your dtSearch CD, in a subfolder named for the version number. If you only have the dtSearch download file, open the file in Winzip or any other ZIP-compatible program to extract dtSearchDesktop.msi. (The download file is in ZIP format even though it is an .exe file.) Copy the dtSearchDesktop.msi file to a network folder.

2. Create one or more shared index libraries on a network share

An index library is just a list of index locations. Once you create a shared index library, you can add indexes to it later and users will automatically see the updated list. To create an index library, click **Index > Index Manager** in dtSearch Desktop, click the **Index Library Manager** button, and click **Add Library** in the Index Library Manager to create an empty index library. See "[Index Library Manager](#)" for more information.

3. Create one or more shared indexes on a network share

Click **Index > Create Advanced** to [create](#) a new index and specify that it should be added to the shared library that you created in the previous step. You can also use

Index Library Manager to add existing indexes to the shared library, as long as these indexes are also in a network folder.

#### 4. Create a dtSearchPolicy.msi file

To create a dtSearchPolicy.msi file, click **Options > Create Group Policy...** in dtSearch Desktop. A dtSearchPolicy.msi file can specify the following settings:

##### **Serial number**

You can use a single serial number to register as many user installations as your license covers. Providing a serial number in the Group Policy file eliminates the need for users to enter serial numbers themselves.

##### **Shared index libraries**

Specify the index libraries that should be included with this Group Policy. Once the index libraries have been set up, you can add or remove indexes in the libraries, and network users will automatically see the updates in their Search dialog box.

##### **Specify where each user's settings should be stored**

When first installed, dtSearch will prompt a user for the location of the folder for the user's settings. Specifying the folder in the Group Policy eliminates the need for this prompt.

After setting up the Group Policy, click **Save As** to save the .MSI file to a location on your network that your users will be able to access.

#### 5. Use Active Directory or Microsoft SMS to deploy the dtSearchDesktop.msi and dtSearchPolicy.msi files to your users.

When the steps above are done, you will have two MSI files in a network folder: dtSearchDesktop.msi (the program files), and dtSearchPolicy.msi (the settings for your network). Using Microsoft SMS or Active Directory, you can automatically install these MSI files on all or part of your network. It does not matter which MSI file is installed first, and you can uninstall and reinstall, or redeploy, either MSI file without affecting the other.

For more information on using Group Policy Objects in Active Directory, see:

[Q314934 HOW TO: Use Group Policy to Remotely Install Software in Windows 2000](#) (Microsoft web site article)

Mark Minasi, *Mastering Windows 2000 Server* (Sybex)

Jeremy Moskowitz, *Windows 2000 Group Policy, Profiles and IntelliMirror* (Sybex)

For more information on using Microsoft SMS to install MSI packages, see:

[Deploying Windows Installer Setup Packages with Systems Management Server 2.0](#) (Microsoft web site article)

**See this article for advice on optimising indexing:**

<http://support.dtsearch.com/faq/dts0206.htm>