"Install to USB"

A guide to creating both the "basic" and "bootable" versions of an OSF USB

PASSMARK S O F T W A R E

Overview…

The "Install to USB" feature of OSForensics (OSF) allows user to install the application to a USB drive for use on live systems. In addition to the basic installation feature, users can also create a bootable version of OSF which allows a user to safely boot-up a computer into the OSF environment. The bootable version is useful for multiple purposes and can be used to boot most any computer, even those lacking an operating system. In addition to creating an OSF USB, users can also create an OSF CD/DVD/BD disk as well.

OSF will create a new directory on the USB drive (e.g. F:\OSForensics), and copy all program files and license information to the USB drive. The application's executable will be located inside the new directory. (e.g., F:\OSForensics\OSForensics.exe). Simply double-click the .exe to launch the app.

Create a mobile USB drive copy of OSForensics to use on the go. This can then be used for live acquisitions.
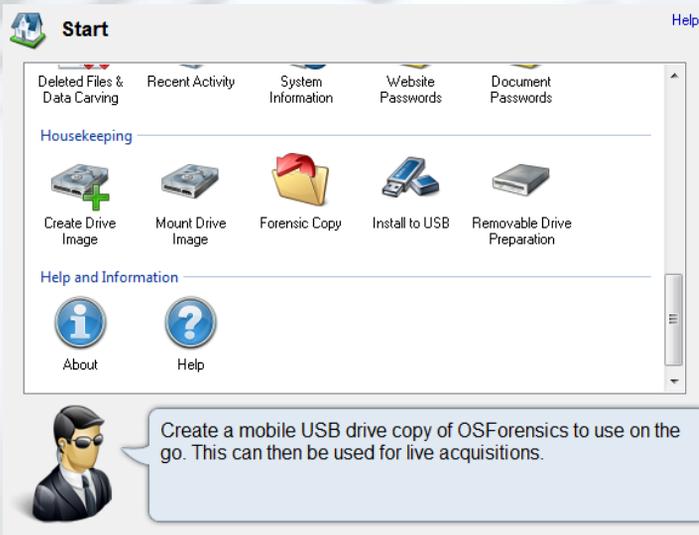
Unlike other products on the market, this portable version of OSF is no different from the installed version. The interface and features are all identical, whether using the installed version on your computer, or the USB version on a target computer.

When running from a USB, OSF will set the default case settings to "Live Acquisition of Current Machine", as it assumes the user is using the USB version to analyze the host machine. When launching the installed app on your computer, OSF will set the default case settings to the "Investigate Disks from Another Machine" setting.

The automated install process can only install OSF to any USB device that Windows identifies in Device Manager as "Removable", as shown here in Figure 2.
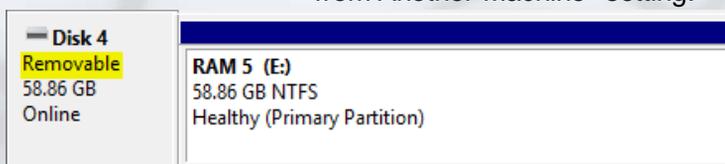

Figure 2

Users can also install OSF to a CD or non-removable USB device such as most USB external hard drives. To do this, you must specify a writable temporary directory such as "*C:\OSForensics*" in the USB Directory path as shown in Figure 3 below.

Upon completing the installation to this temporary directory, burn the created directory to the optical disk, or simply move (e.g., drag and drop), the directory to the external USB device.
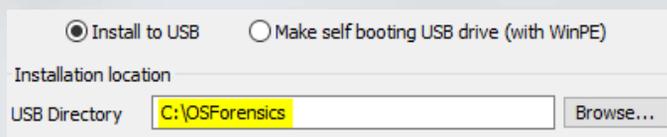

Figure 3

For more information on this subject, please visit: https://www.osforensics.com/faqs-and-tutorials/creating-selfboot-option.html

STEP 1. Plug-in USB flash drive - Plug-in a removable USB device you wish to use for the installation. For optimal performance, make sure to use a high-quality USB 3.0 device with fast read/write speeds.


STEP 2. Launch OSForensics – After plugging in the USB device, double-click the OSForensics desktop shortcut to launch the application.

OSForensics by PassMark Software
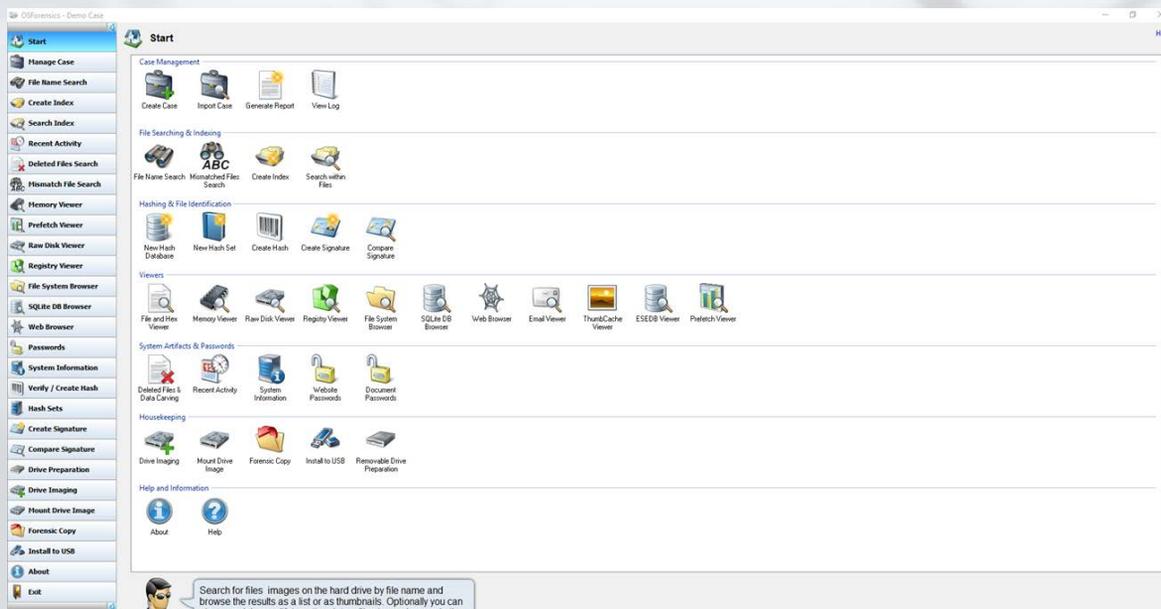
STEP 3. Click "Install to USB" – After launching OSForensics, click on the "Install to USB" module from the OSF Workflow, or the "Install to USB" icon located on the Start screen of OSF to launch the installer.
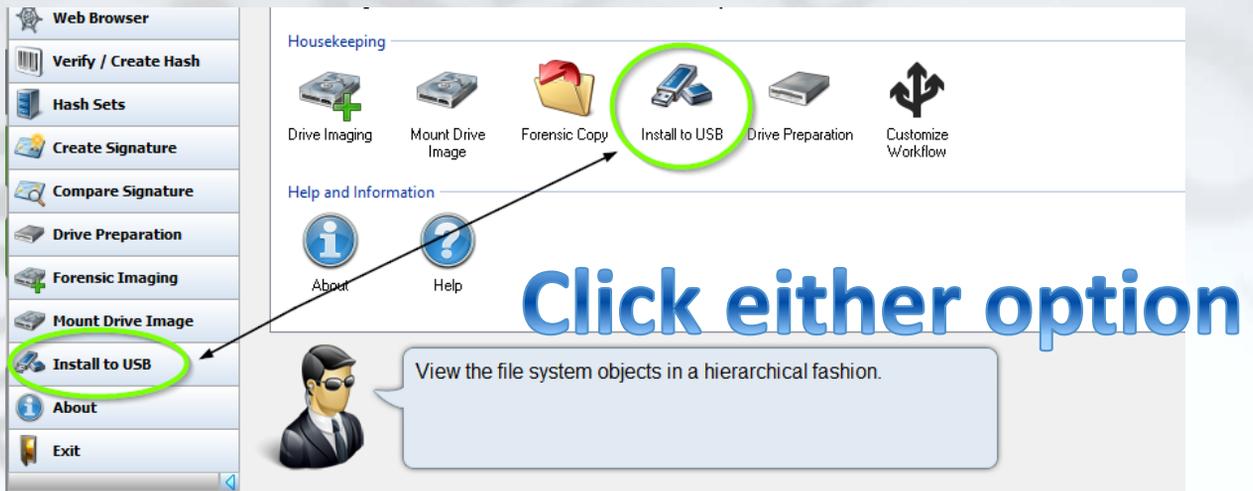
STEP 4. Choose Installation Type – After the installer window appears, you will need to choose which type of OSF USB you wish to create. For a basic OSF USB for use on live Windows computers, choose the "Install to USB" option which is the easiest and quickest to create. Verify that the correct directory path is set, and if not, make the necessary corrections. You should typically choose the root of the USB drive for most installations.
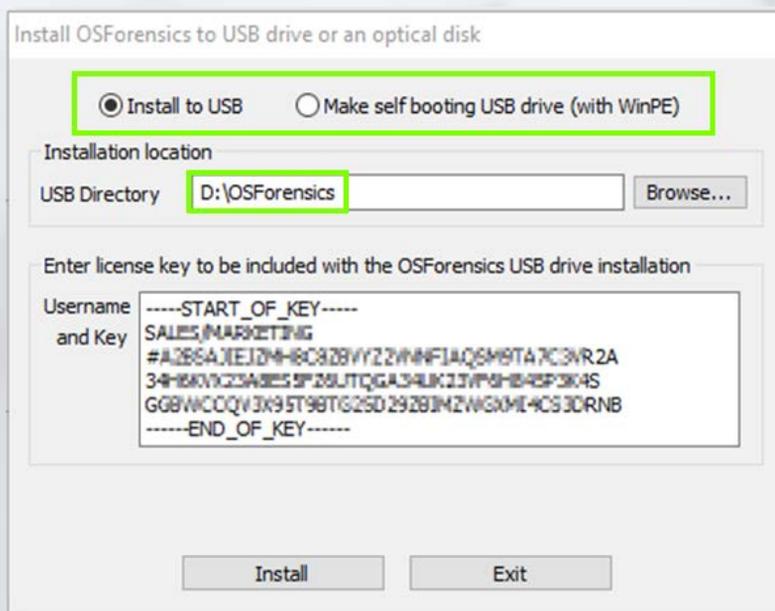
STEP 5. Enter OSF License Key– In order to create a USB version of OSF, you will need to have a valid, licensed copy of OSForensics Pro. You cannot create a USB version using a Trial license of OSF that is available on the OSForensics website. To create the OSF USB, simply Copy/Paste your OSF license key into the box as shown below. Make sure you include the START and END lines of the key.
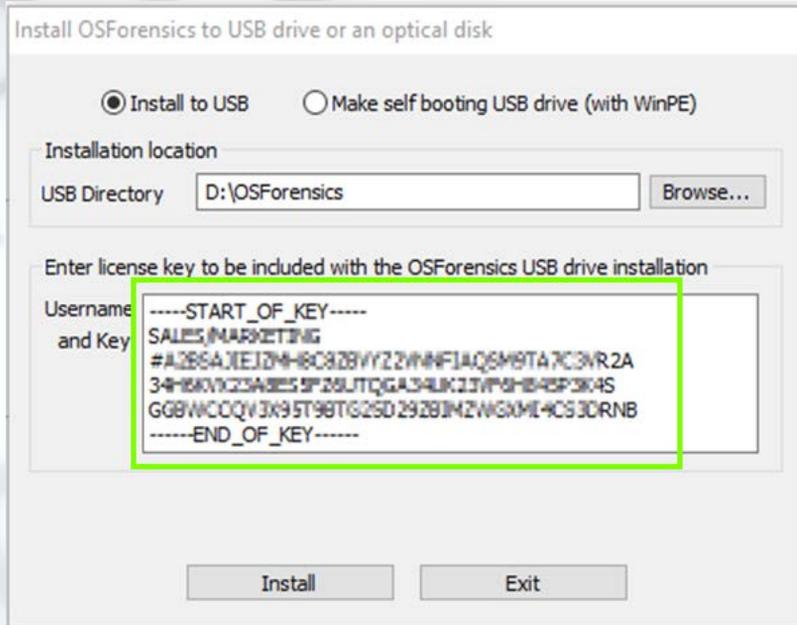

STEP 6. Click Install – After entering your license key, simply click the "Install" button to finish the installation. If you chose the basic "Install to USB" option, the process will be complete after this step and the USB is ready for use.
- *If you selected the "Make self-booting USB drive (with WinPE)" option, continue to* **STEP 7**…
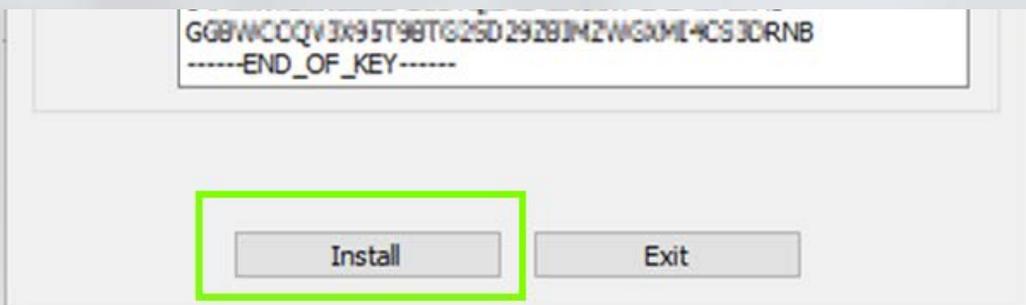
STEP 7. Creating a Bootable USB – If you selected to create a bootable OSF USB, the OSForensics' WinPE Builder will now launch and guide you through the remaining steps. (You must either have the Windows AIK or ADK installed prior to creating the USB, which is covered in STEP 9.)
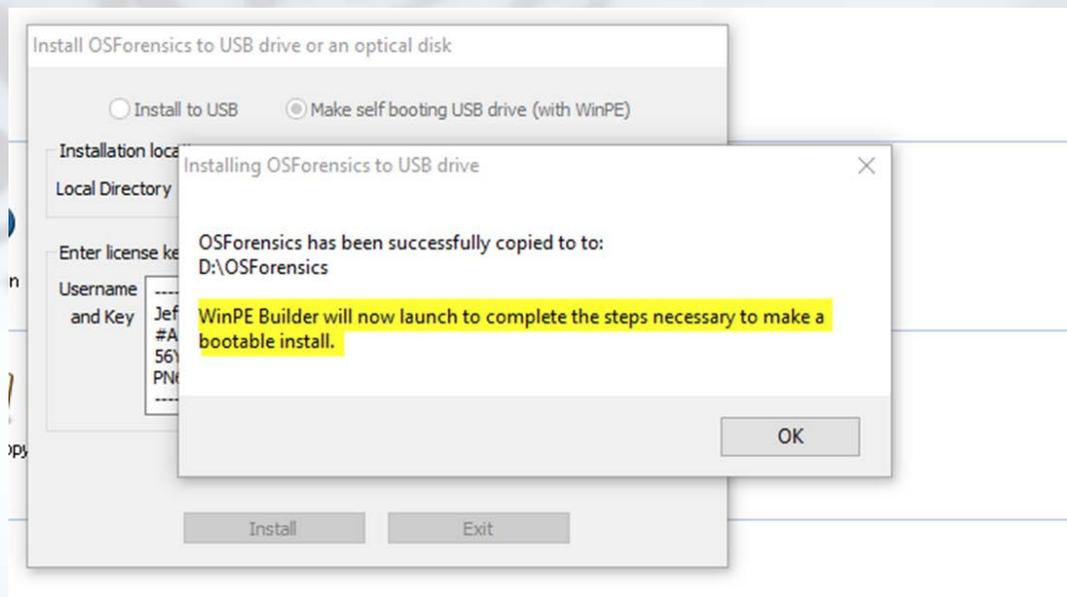

STEP 8. Review the "Getting Started" tab – After the WinPE Builder launches, review the material on the first tab, labeled "Getting Started", then proceed to the next tab titled, "WinPE/Packages" by clicking "Next".
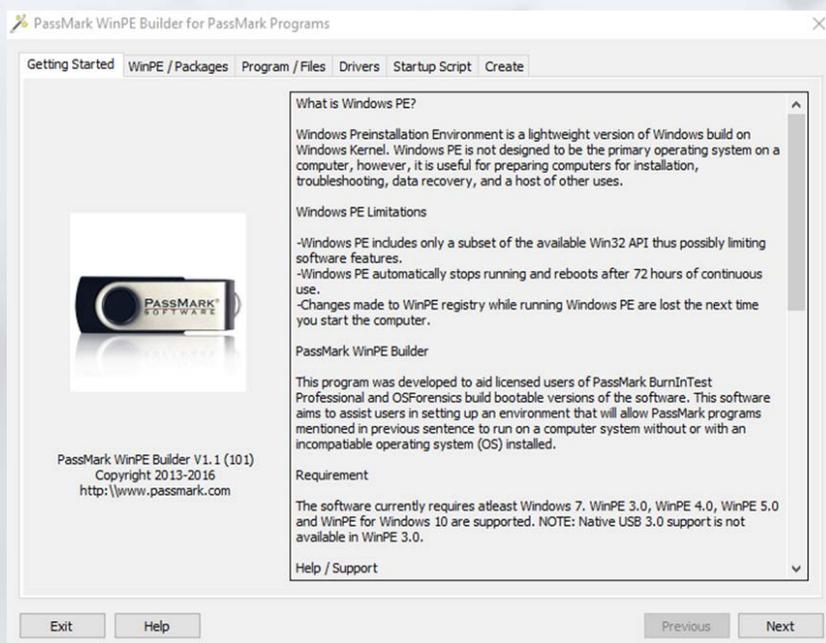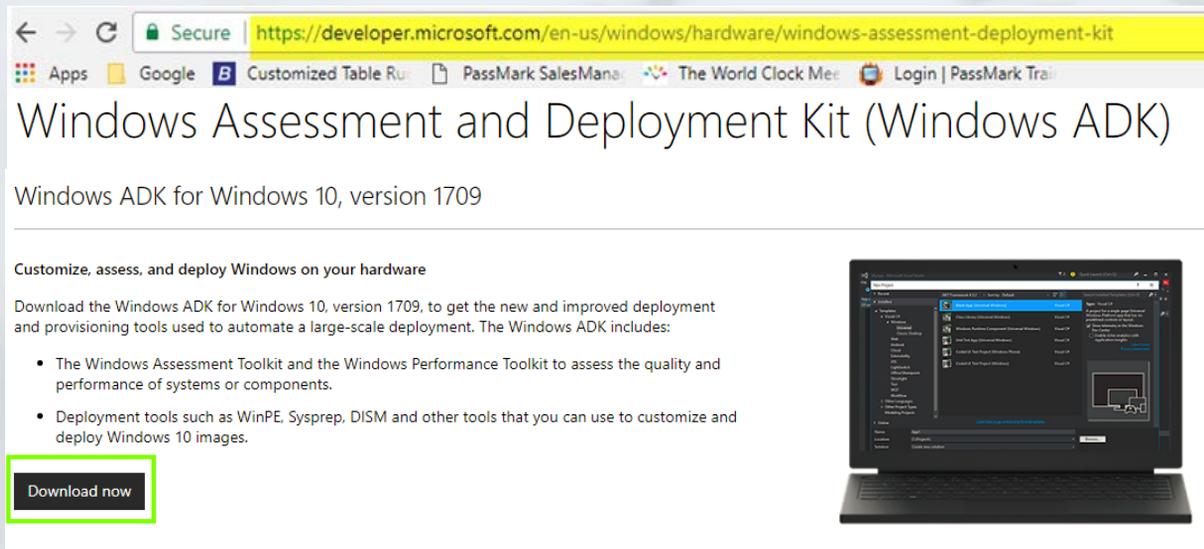
STEP 9. AIK or ADK? – If you are on a **Windows 7** machine, you will need the Windows Automated Installation Kit (AIK). You can download at:

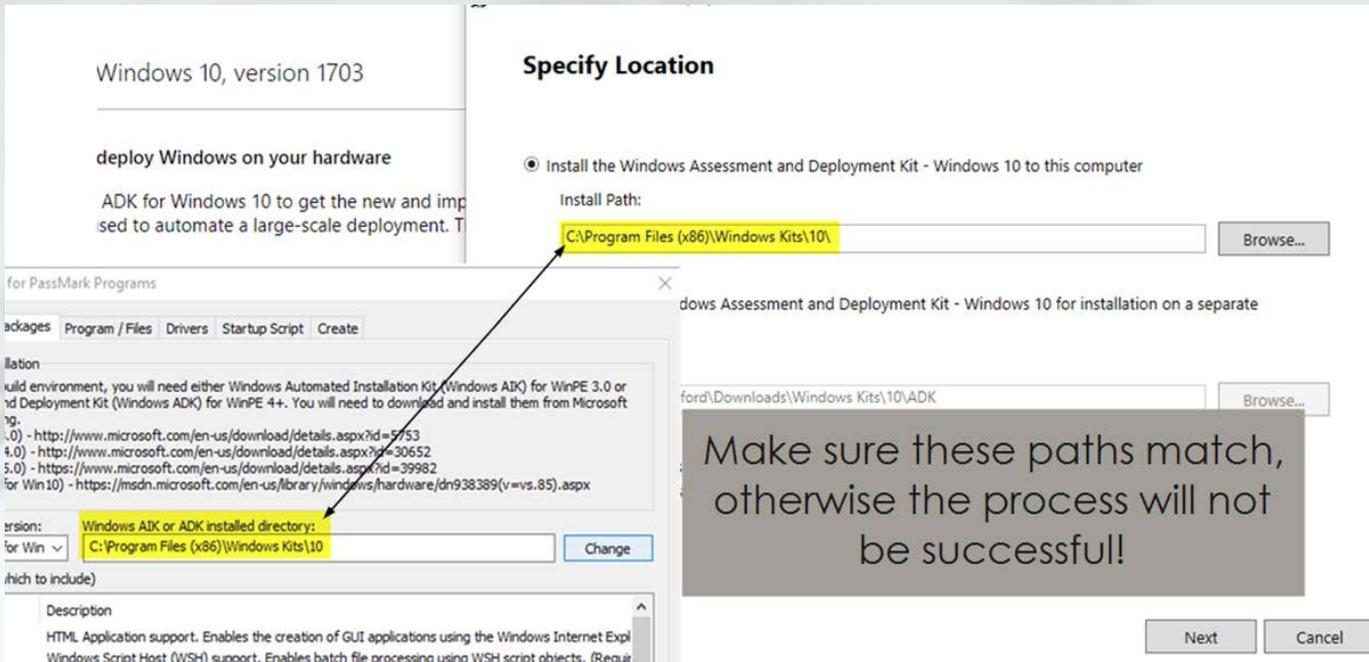https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=5753
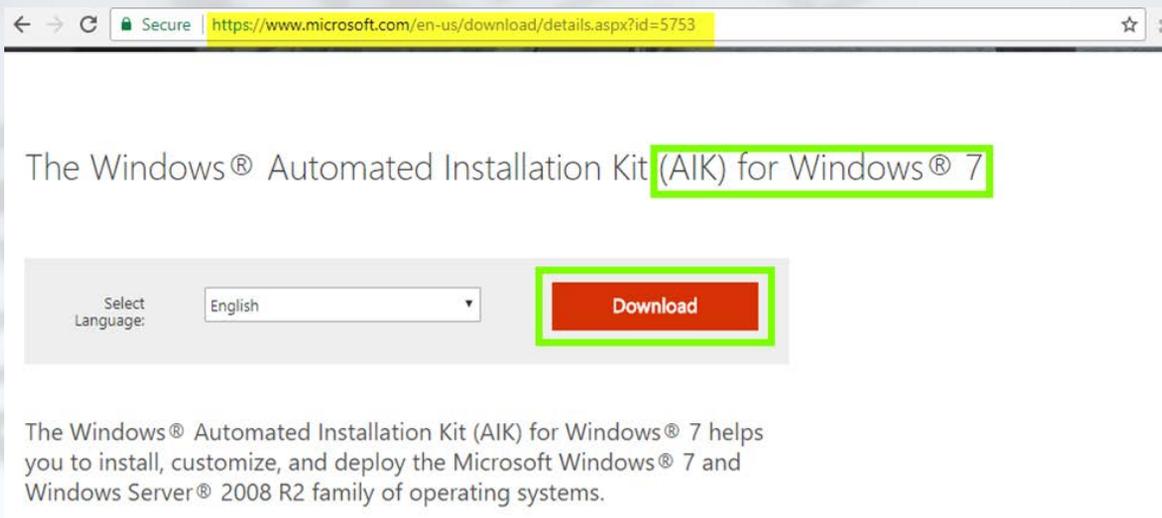
If you are using **Windows 10**, you will need the Windows Assessment and Deployment Kit (ADK), which is available for download at:

https://developer.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/hardware/windows-assessment-deployment-kit

Make sure these paths match, otherwise the process will not be successful!

Make sure that the path to the AIK or ADK is correctly set in the WinPE builder as shown in these examples...
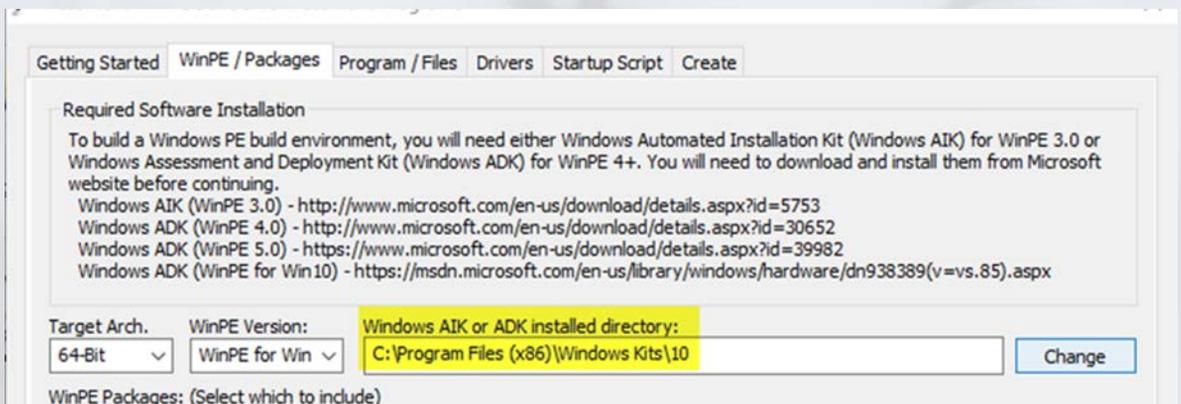
STEP 10. Add OSF and Support Files to the Build – On the
"Program/Files" tab, the WinPE builder will automatically add the OSForensic
application and support files (font files) to be added to the build as shown
below. You may also add additional files to the build on this screen if
necessary.
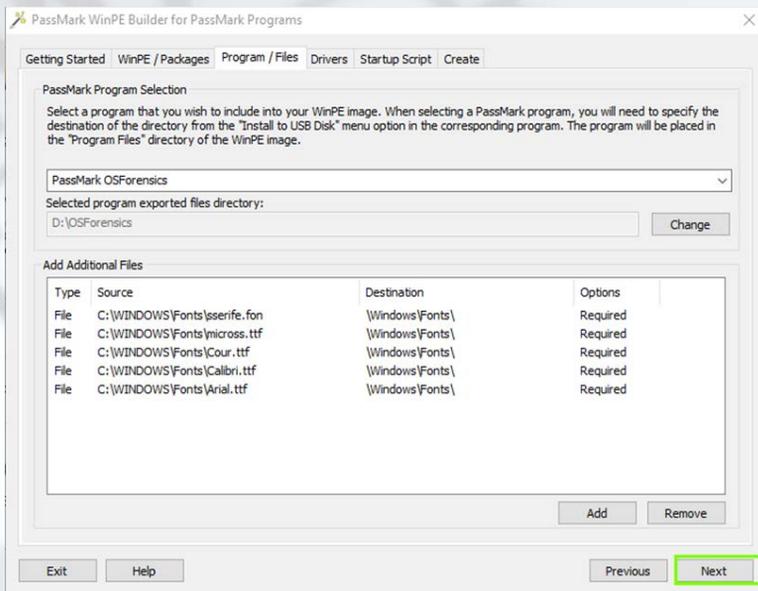
STEP 11. Add Drivers – You may choose to add any additional drivers that
may be needed on the "Drivers" tab. If none are needed, simply click the "Next
button to advance to the next tab.
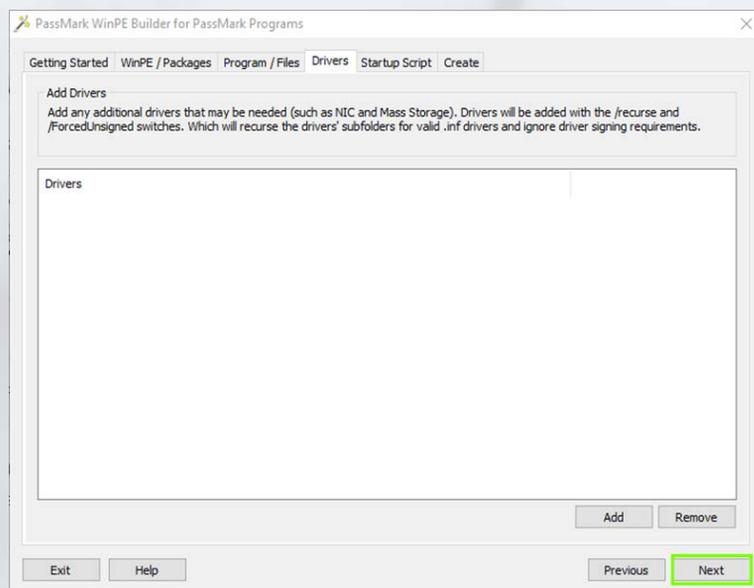
STEP 12. Select Startup Method – On this tab, you must choose whether to use the "startnet.cmd" or "winpeshi.ini" method to launch OSF after booting. The "startnet.cmd" will give you access to the command prompt to run a specific set of commands, batch files or scripts. "winpeshi.ini" provides no access to the command prompt, but will stop regular users from having direct access into the physical environment itself once booted and is recommended for basic users.
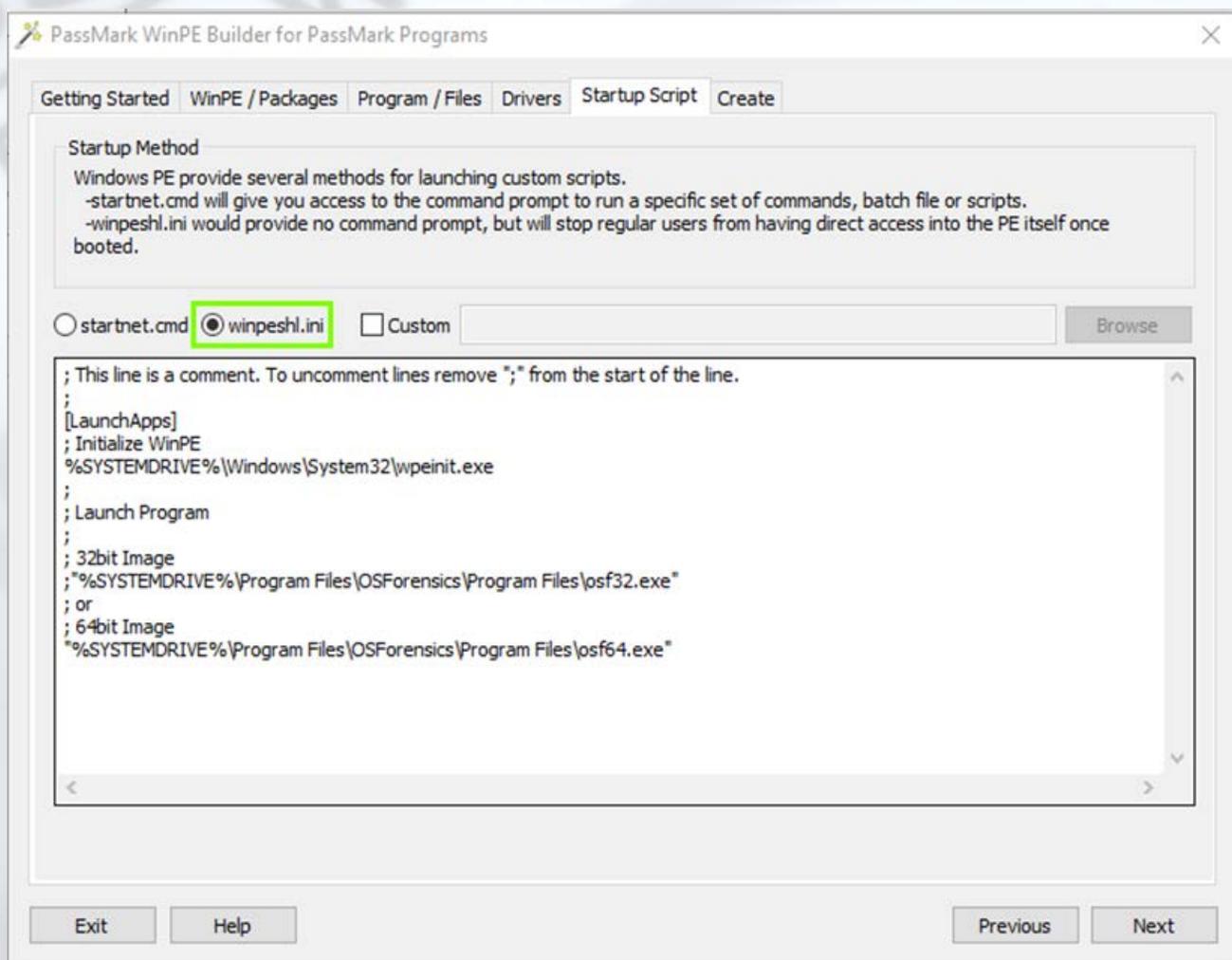
**STEP 13. Verify Drive & Create** – On this final tab, users will need to review all configuration options and make any necessary changes before clicking "Create". Unlike the basic USB installation, creating a bootable disk **WILL** format the device, thus deleting any and all files from the drive. Make sure you save any important files to another source prior to creating the bootable USB, and verify that the correct drive letter has been selected. After verifying all settings are correct, check mark the "*Configuration is correct*" box and click "Create". The "Temp Work Dir" location must have plenty of free space and the directory needs to be empty. It is recommended to create a "TEMP" folder (as shown below), to use for this operation which can be deleted after the process completes. If there is not enough space to store the temp directory, or if there are pre-existing files in the chosen directory, the operation will fail.

The "Temp Work Dir" you choose should be empty.
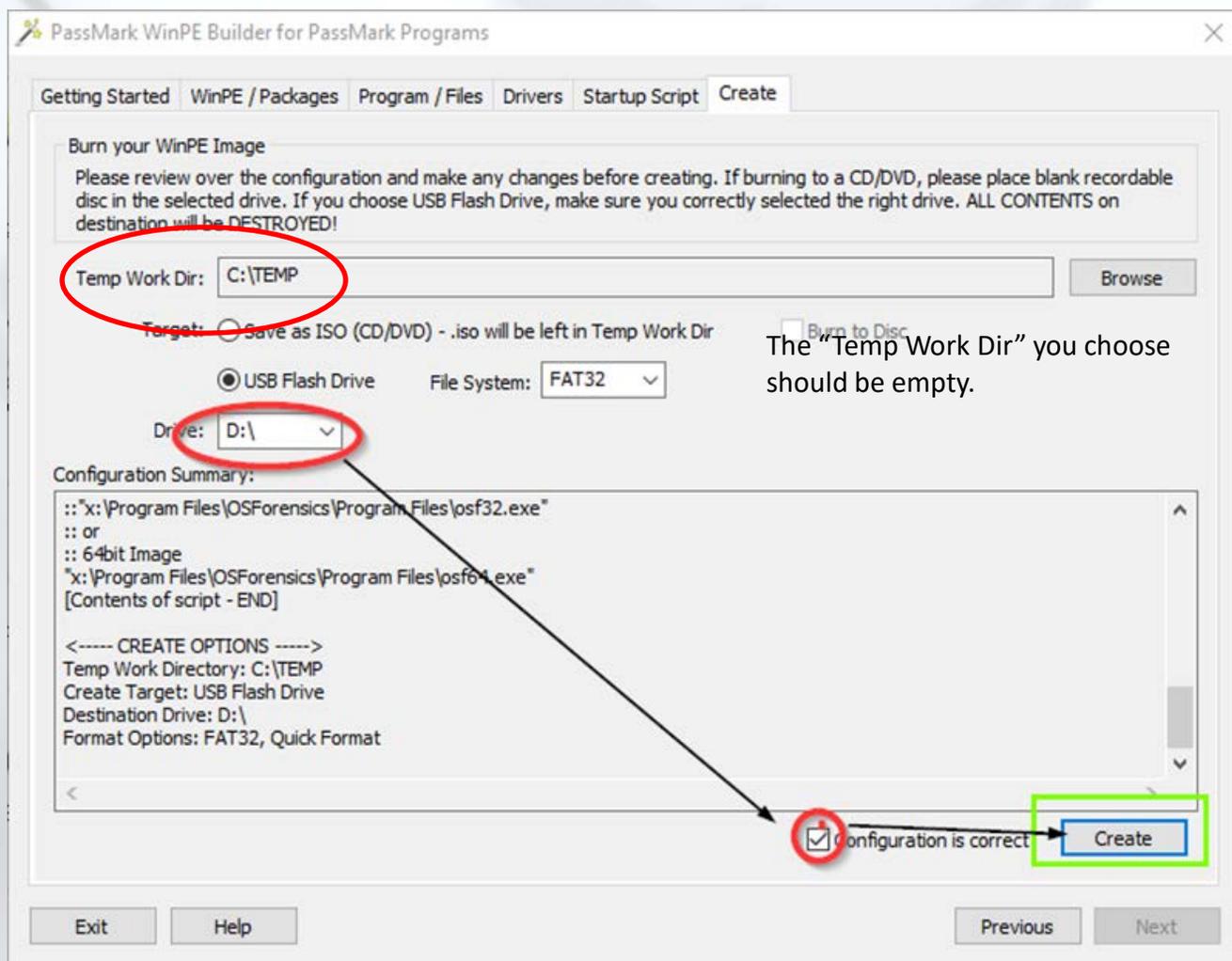
STEP 14. WinPE Build In-Progress – After clicking "Create", the WinPE build process will begin, requiring no interaction from the user. This process is typically a bit time consuming depending on several factors. You can view the process in the CMD prompt window as it builds. The process is not complete until the WinPE progress bar stops cycling and the message changes from "Building Custom WinPE Image", to "Complete" as shown on the next page.
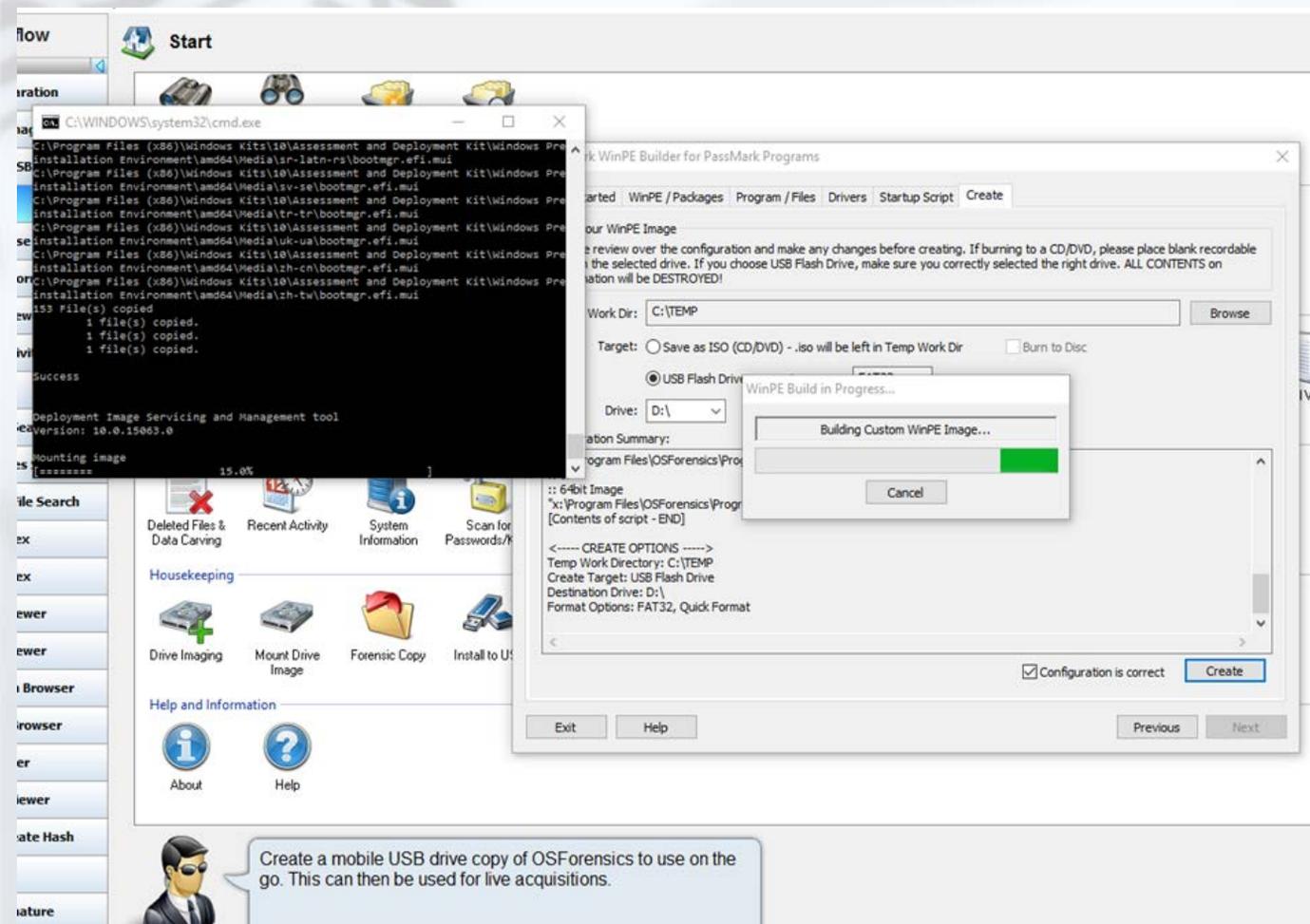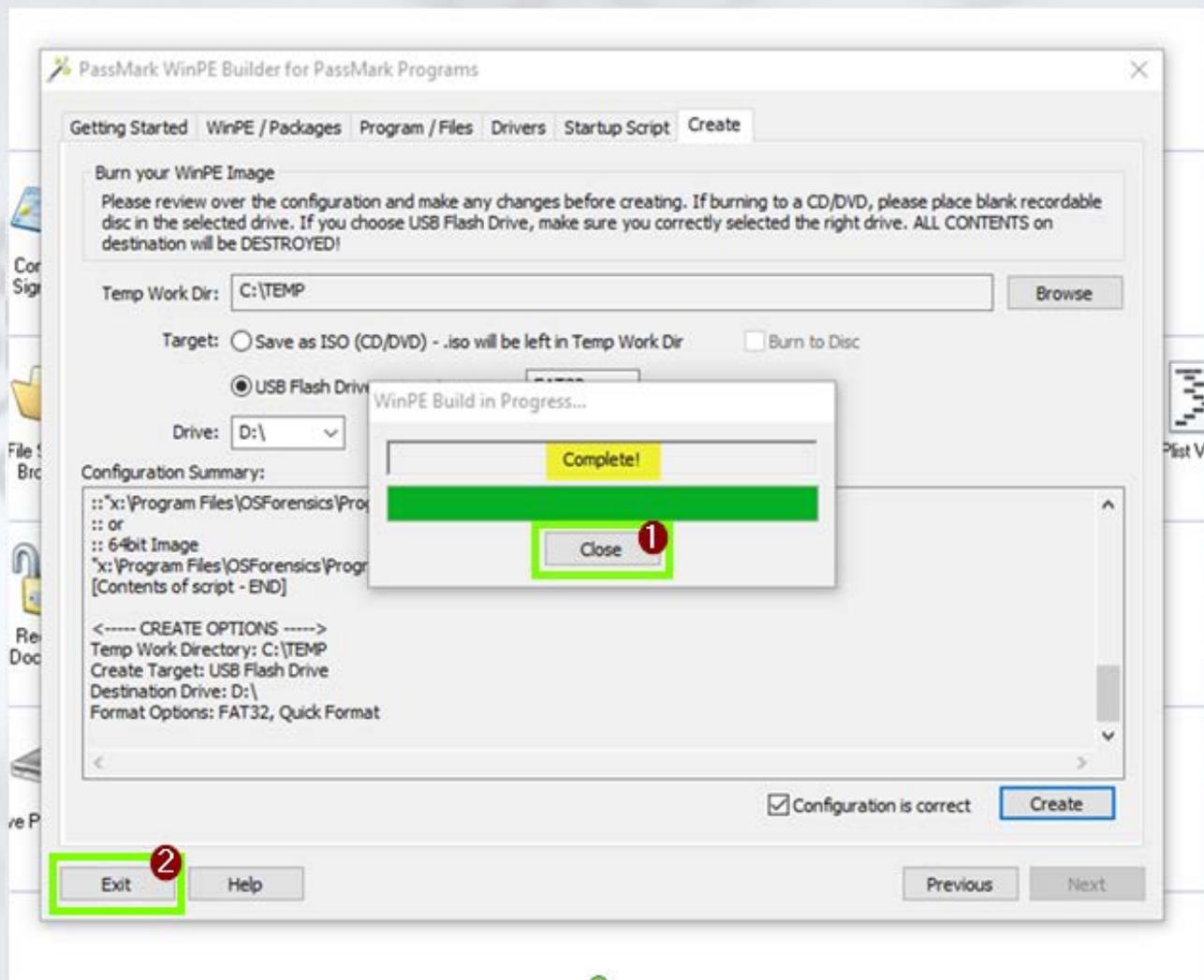
STEP 15. OSF Bootable USB Complete – When the process is complete, you should see a confirmation window as shown in the example above, indicating that the process completed successfully and you may exit the application. Simply click the "Close" button, then click "Exit". You can now safely eject your OSF Bootable USB.

Useful Links...

To download a 30-DAY TRIAL of OSForensics, please visit us at:
https://www.osforensics.com/download.html

You can download the OSForensics USER MANUAL for FREE at:
https://www.osforensics.com/downloads/OSF_help.pdf

For TRAINING & CERTIFICATION, please visit:
https://www.osforensics.com/training.html

For FAQs and TUTORIALS, please visit:
https://www.osforensics.com/faqs-and-tutorials/faqs.html

You can access VIDEO DEMONSTRATIONS at:
https://www.osforensics.com/faqs-and-tutorials/video_demonstrations.html

Register for our FREE USER FORUM at:
https://www.passmark.com/forum/index.php

To request a SALES QUOTE, please fill out a short form at:
https://www.osforensics.com/quote.html

Or send an email request to:
sales@passmark.com

For GENERAL INQUIRIES, please contact us at:
info@passmark.com

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