

Creating a Stand-Alone Application

Goal

Create a build specification and build a stand-alone application (EXE) in LabVIEW.

Scenario

Creating a stand-alone application and an installer simplifies deploying an application on multiple machines. After you have prepared your files, you create an Application (.exe) Build Specification and then create an Installer Build Specification.

Design

Use the Application (EXE) Build Specifications to create a stand-alone application for the Weather Station application.

Use the Installer Build Specifications to create an installer for the Weather Station application.

Implementation

The files that you need to complete this exercise are here:

<NI eLearning>\LV Core 2\Build Specifications\Exercise.

Application (EXE) Build Specification

1. Open `Weather Station.lvproj` in the <Exercise> directory.
2. Right-click **Build Specifications** in the Project Explorer window and select **New»Application (EXE)** from the shortcut menu.
3. Modify the filename of the target and destination directory for the application in the Information category.
 - ☐ Select the **Information** category.
 - ☐ Change the Target filename to `WeatherStation.exe`.
 - ☐ Enter <Exercise>\Executable in the **Destination** directory.



Tip You do not need to create the directory. LabVIEW creates any directories that you specify.

4. Specify the top-level VI.

- ☐ Select the **Source Files** category.
 - ☐ Select the **Weather Station UI.vi** in the Project Files tree.
 - ☐ Click the right arrow next to the Startup VIs listbox to add the selected VI to the Startup VIs listbox.
 - ☐ Click **OK**.
5. In the Project Explorer window, right-click the **My Application** build specification that you just created, and select **Build** from the shortcut menu.
 6. Click **Done** in the Build status window.
 7. Navigate to <Exercise>\Executable in Windows Explorer and run `WeatherStation.exe`. Stop when done.
 8. Verify that the application closed when you stopped the application and that the `weather.txt` was created next to the executable.

Review the Building Applications Checklist

1. Open the LabVIEW Help by selecting **Help»LabVIEW Help**.
2. Select **Fundamentals»Building and Distributing Applications»Building Applications Checklist**.
3. Review the Configuring Build Specifications checklist items.

Installer Build Specification

1. Right-click **Build Specifications** in the Project Explorer window and select **New»Installer** from the shortcut menu.
2. Modify the Installer destination in the Product Information category.
 - ☐ Select the **Product Information** category.
 - ☐ Type <Exercise>\Installer as the Installer destination.
3. Specify the Executable Build Specification.
 - ☐ Click the **Source Files** category.
 - ☐ Select the **My Application** build specification.
 - ☐ Select the **Weather Station** directory in the Program Files in the Destination View tree.



- ☐ Click the right arrow next to the Project View tree to place the executable and the executable support files under the Program Files in the Weather Station directory as shown in Figure 1.

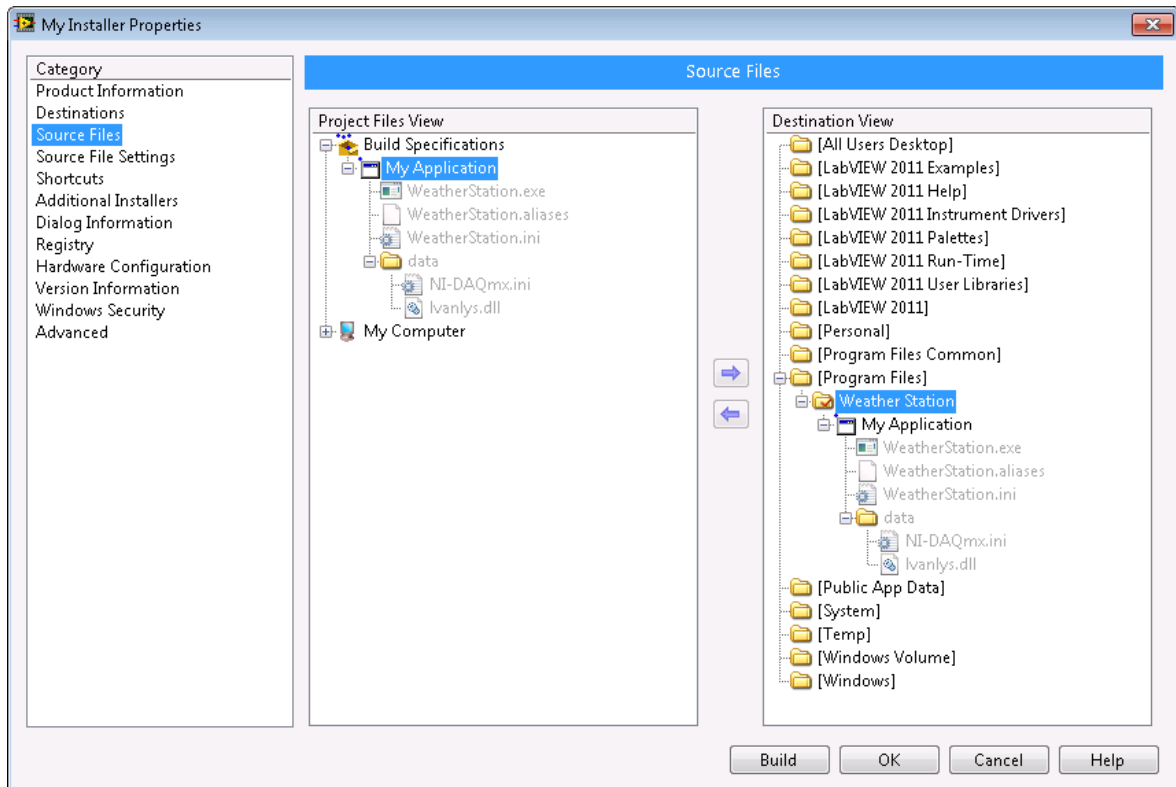


Figure 1. Installer Source Files Category

4. Add the NI LabVIEW Run-Time Engine to the installer by modifying the Additional Installers category.
 - ☐ Select the **Additional Installers** category.
 - ☐ Select the **NI LabVIEW Run-Time Engine 2011** installer.
 - ☐ Click **OK**.
5. In the Project Explorer window, right-click the **My Installer** build specification and select **Build** from the shortcut menu.
6. Click **Done**.

Test

1. Run the setup.exe file in the <Exercise>\Installer\Volume directory. You are guided through a setup process. The executable is created inside the <Program Files>\Weather Station directory.
2. To run the application, select **Start»Programs»Weather Station»Weather Station**.

End of Exercise

Notes
