

Using 7-Zip Software to Install ISO files

Downloading & Installing 7-Zip

[ISO files](#) are a common format used by Microsoft to distribute software through the MSDNAA program. When you download software in ISO format from our [MSDNAA website](#), you can't necessarily double click on the file to begin installation; the ISO must first be unpacked or burned to a recordable disc (a CD-R or DVD-R). To successfully unpack an ISO file, you need appropriate software and 7-Zip is one piece of software you might want to use to do this. 7-zip is freely available at: <http://www.7-zip.org/>

It is important to select the file type appropriate for your PC - 32 or 64 bit Windows OS. To determine which version of Windows you have, right click on "Computer" on your desktop/in your Start menu and select Properties. You should see something like this:

View basic information about your computer

Windows edition

Windows 7 Enterprise
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System

Rating: System rating is not available

Processor: Intel(R) Core(TM)2 Duo CPU E8235 @ 2.80GHz 2.80 GHz

Installed memory (RAM): 1.00 GB

System type: 32-bit Operating System

Pen and Touch: No Pen or Touch Input is available for this Display

Note "32-bit Operating System" (or 64-bit) near the bottom of the screen

After confirming whether your system as 32 or 64 bit, click on a "Download" link (see red arrow below).

7ZIP

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Welcome to the 7-Zip Home!

7-Zip is a file archiver with a high compression ratio.

Download 7-Zip 9.20 (2010-11-18) for Windows:

Link	Type	Windows	Size
Download	.exe	32-bit x86	1 MB
Download	.msi	64-bit x64	1 MB

The download links above redirect you to download pages on SourceForge.net

License

7-Zip is **open source** software. Most of the source code is under the **GNU LGPL** license. The unRAR code is under a mixed license: GNU LGPL + unRAR restrictions. Check license information here: [7-Zip license](#).

You can use 7-Zip on any computer, including a computer in a commercial organization. You don't need to register or pay for 7-Zip.

The main features of 7-Zip

- High compression ratio in [7z format](#) with **LZMA** and **LZMA2** compression
- Supported formats:
 - Packing / unpacking: 7z, XZ, BZIP2, GZIP, TAR, ZIP and WIM
 - Unpacking only: ARJ, CAB, CHM, CPIO, CramFS, DEB, DMG, FAT, HFS, ISO, LZH, LZMA, MBR, MSI, NSIS, NTFS, RAR, RPM, SquashFS, UDF, VHD, WIM, XAR and Z.
- For ZIP and GZIP formats, **7-Zip** provides a compression ratio that is 2-10 % better than the ratio provided by PKZip and WinZip
- Strong AES-256 encryption in 7z and ZIP formats
- Self-extracting capability for 7z format
- Integration with Windows Shell
- **Powerful File Manager**

7-Zip 9.20 2010-11-18
[History of 7-zip changes](#)

7-Zip 9.18 beta 2010-11-02
SquashFS and CramFS support.

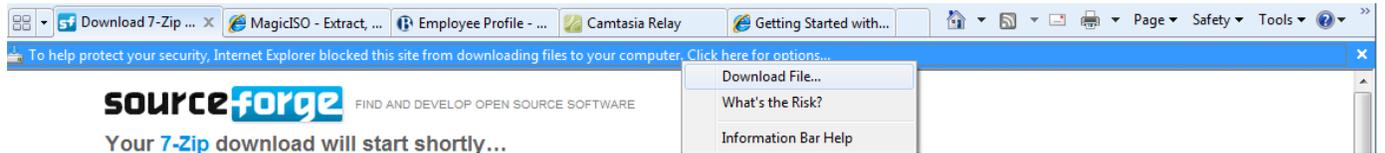
7-Zip 9.17 beta 2010-10-04
Disk fragmentation problem for ZIP archives created by 7-Zip was fixed.

7-Zip 9.16 beta 2010-09-08
Improved support for TAR and NSIS

LZMA SDK 9.12 beta 2010-03-24
[PPMd support](#)

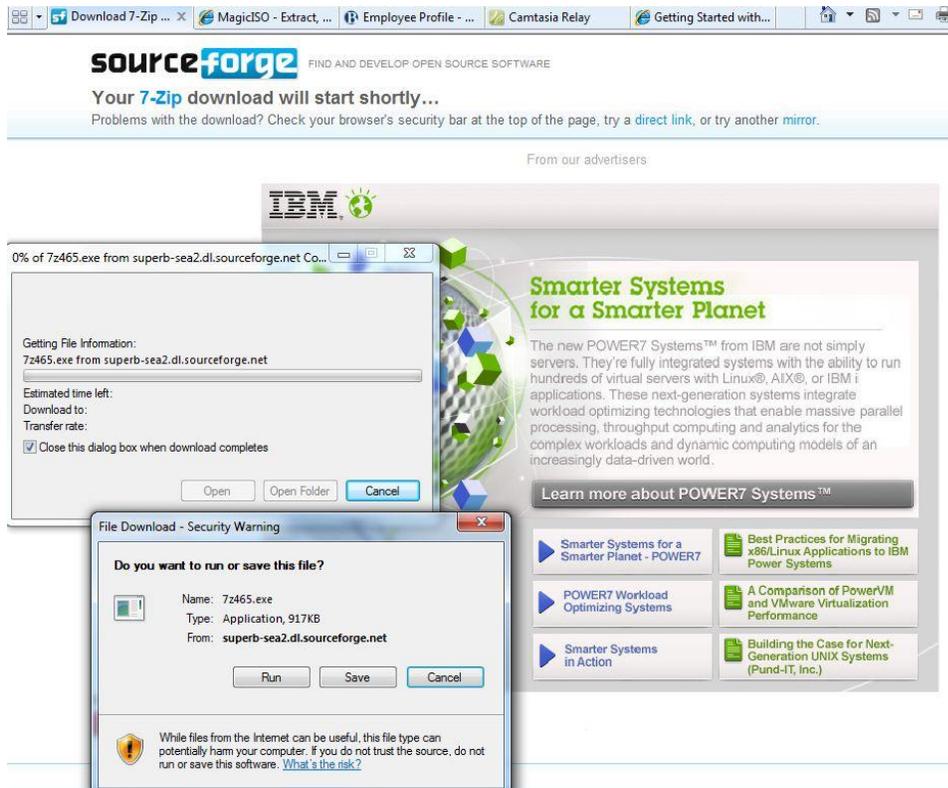
7-Zip homepage: <http://www.7-zip.org/> and download links

After clicking on the appropriate download link for 7-Zip (32 or 64 bit), depending on your internet browser's security settings, your **may** be prompted to approve download of the 7-Zip installation file.



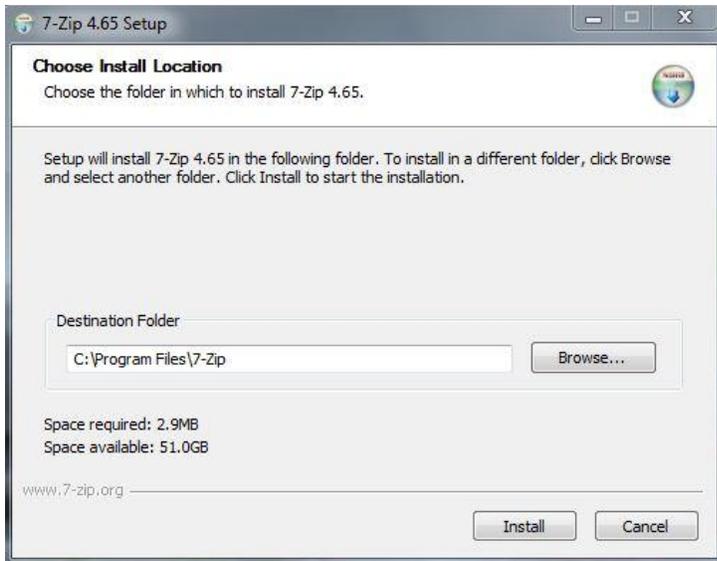
Note message highlighted in blue, "To help protect your security, Internet Explorer blocked this site...". Left click on the message and choose "Download File" to continue downloading 7-Zip. Note browsers other than Microsoft Internet Explorer may not include this step.

After clicking Download, you will be prompted to Run, Save, or Cancel the download of the installation file. Choose Run to begin installation of 7-Zip on your computer. Note if you choose Save instead of Run, you will have to navigate to the location the file was downloaded to and double click on the downloaded 7-Zip executable file before continuing to the next step.



Click on "Run" to begin installation, (if you choose "Save" you will need to navigate to the downloaded file before continuing).

Next, 7-Zip will prompt you to choose a location to install 7-Zip. Click "Install" to continue the process.



Left click on Install to continue the installation process.

Finally, the 7-Zip installer will prompt you to reboot your computer to complete the installation process. Save any open files or work, then select Reboot now and click on Finish to complete installation.



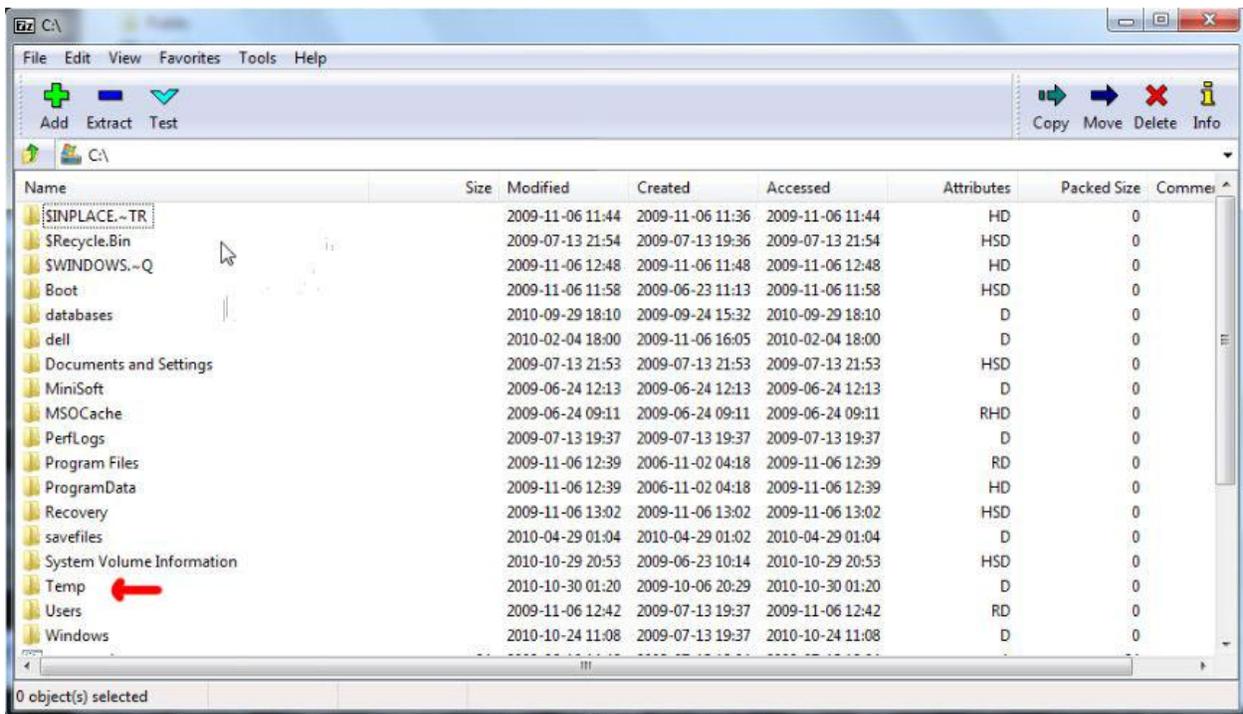
If you are ready to reboot, choose Reboot now, then click on Finish to complete installation of 7-Zip.

Using 7-Zip to install software downloaded as ISO files

After you have completed a download of software from the MSDNAA website, you need to open the 7-Zip File Manager (from Start menu/All Programs) to proceed. Note that by default, the ISO files from the MSDNAA website will be downloaded to the **Temp** folder on your primary hard drive – C:

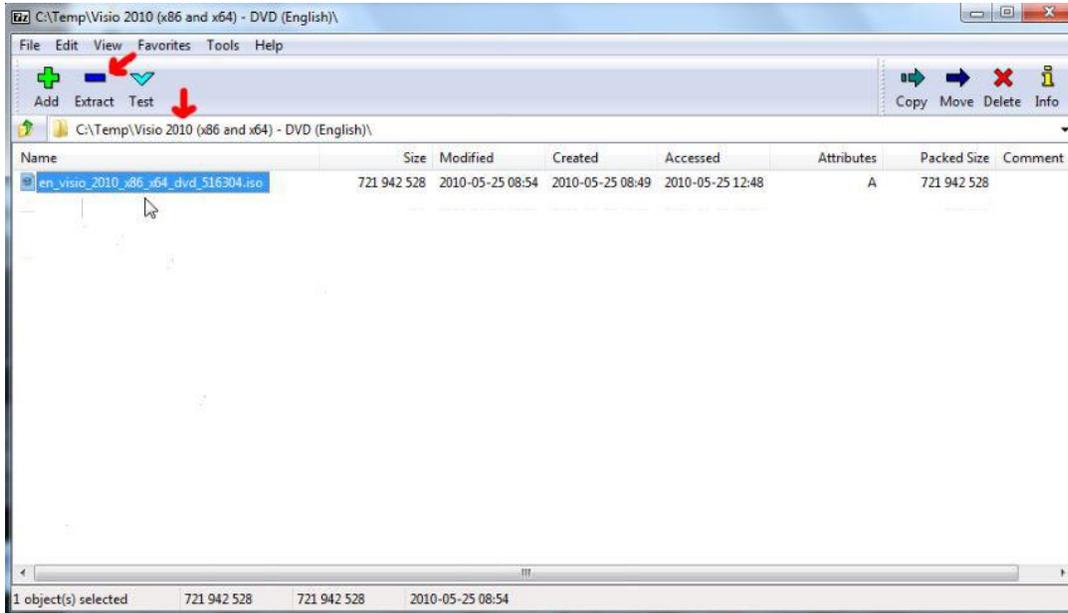
The steps for installing software from ISO files using 7-Zip are rather straightforward and in addition to being listed below can also be reviewed in the following video, located at: [URL for video](#)

From the File Manager launch screen in 7-Zip, you need to browse to the ISO file that you downloaded from the MSDNAA website.



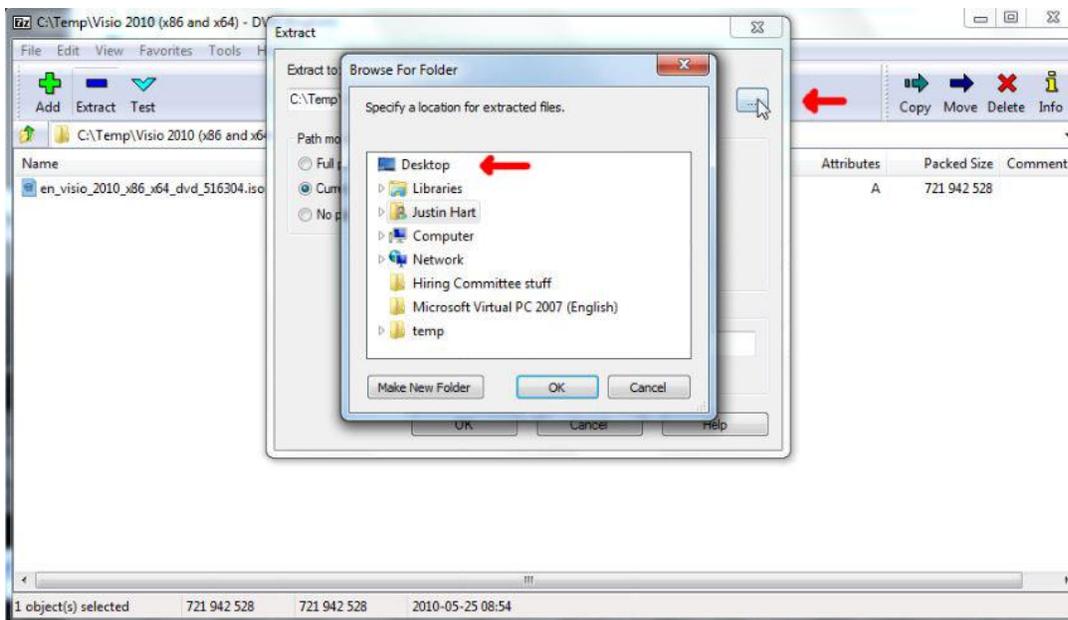
Left click on the folder where your ISO file was downloaded to (by default it would be in the Temp folder, see red arrow above)

Inside the Temp folder are folders that contain the ISO files. From the 7-Zip File Manager, navigate to the correct folder by double clicking on the appropriate folder (in this example it is for Visio 2010), if the ISO file you want to install from is not highlighted, left click on the ISO file once, then click on the blue “Extract” – button in the top left corner of the File Manager window.



In 7-Zip File Manager, navigate to folder with ISO file, left click on folders until you find the ISO file you want to install (in this example Visio 2010). Make sure ISO file is highlighted and click on Extract button in top left hand corner of the File Manager.

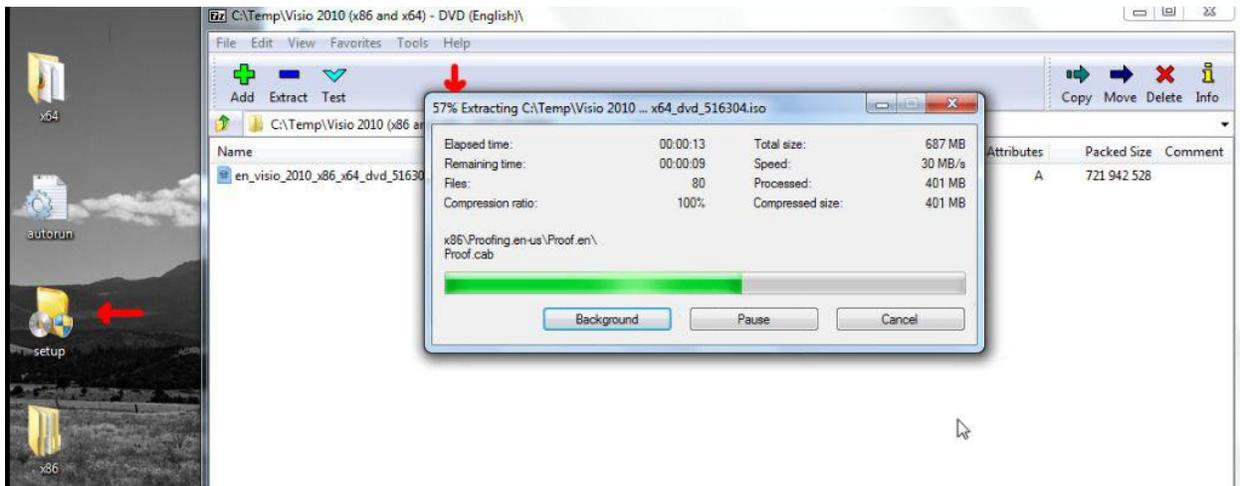
Choose a location to extract to using the button with three periods on it in the right hand corner of the window after you click on Extract (in this example, the ISO will extract to the desktop).



Click on the button with 3 periods (ellipsis) on the Extract pop up, then click on a location to extract your file to (Desktop will be used in this example), and finally click on OK to continue.

After clicking on OK in the Browse For Folder window, you will return to the Extract window. Click on OK in the Extract window to proceed with extraction from the ISO file. Note that the extracted files will appear soon after clicking on OK and that the unpacking process can take anywhere from a few seconds to a few minutes (depending on the size of the files, the speed of your computer, etc).

Once the extraction is complete, navigate to the location your files have been extracted to (the desktop in this example), and double click on the file called “setup”. After double clicking on setup, the installation procedures are the same as those for software installed from DVD – just follow the prompts given to you by the software installer (enter product key, choose location to install, etc).



Notice the extracted files on the desktop. Once extraction is complete, click on the file called “setup” to begin installing your MSDNAA software. After installation is complete, you may delete the files and folders that were unpacked to your desktop (in the screenshot above).

Additional Information

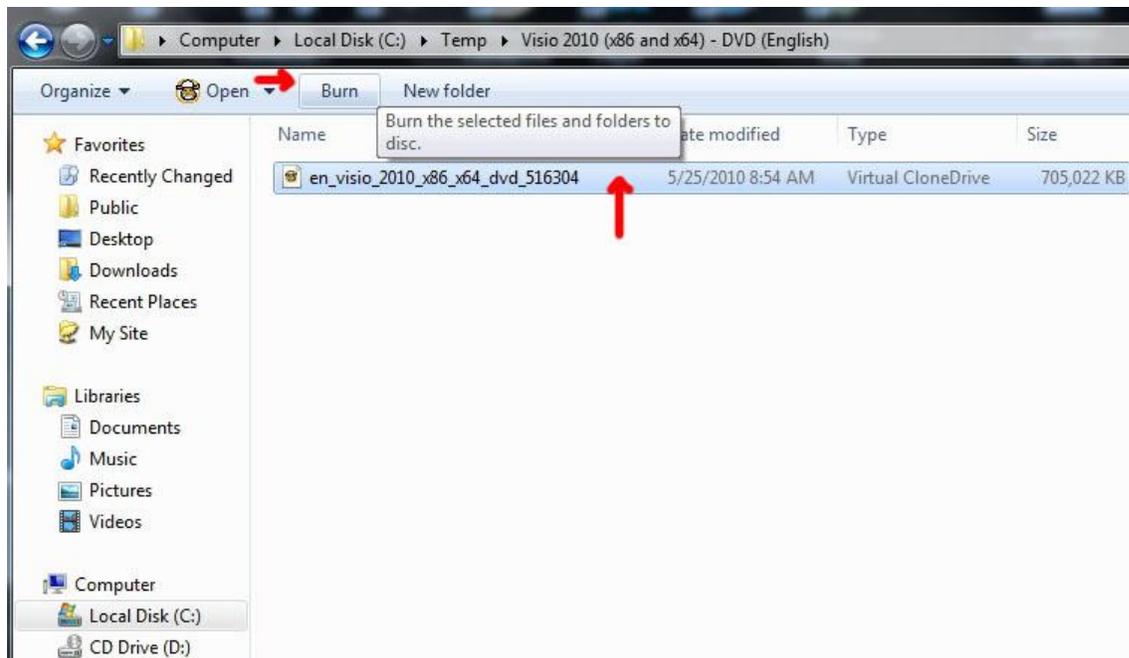
There are of course other options for installing software from ISO format. Here are some links (and brief descriptions) to other freely available software choices for installing ISO files and another screenshot that indicates how to burn the ISO file to an installable disc for users of Windows 7 and Windows Vista:

[Virtual Clone Drive](#) – free software; right click to mount ISO files via virtual discs in Windows Explorer

[Magic ISO Maker](#) – more free software for both unpacking and creating ISO files (similar to 7-Zip)

[ISO Files](#) – Wikipedia page on ISO files with tips and info about how to use them

Quick tip on burning ISO files to disc (for Windows 7 and Windows Vista users), see next page:



For users of Windows 7: if you don't have separately installed software for burning CD or DVD media, you may be able to burn an installable version of the software to disc - navigate to the location of your downloaded ISO file and either right click on the file and choose "Windows Disc Image Burner" or, if present, click on the "Burn" button in the window frame (see red arrows above). Doing this allows you to burn the ISO file to a blank disc and, once burning has completed, install from it.