

# PsExec (Execute Remote Process) Action

PsExec allows you to execute a program on a remote computer. It is a more flexible alternative to the [WMI Run Process](#) action. PsExec can optionally create an interactive program on a user's desktop, can log output from the target program, and/or can obtain a return code.

## Remote Tab

See the [PsTools Common Options](#) topic.

The screenshot shows the 'PsExec (Execute Remote Program)' dialog box with the 'Program' tab selected. The 'Program file' field contains 'C:\Program Files\Application\Application.exe'. The 'Options' section has 'Parameters' set to '-s -l' and 'Start in' is empty. Under 'Exit code must be', the dropdown is set to 'less than or equal to' and the value is '0'. All four checkboxes ('Exit code must be', 'Wait for completion', 'Capture standard output', and 'Capture standard error') are checked. The 'Copying program file' section has four radio buttons: 'Do not copy the program to the remote computer', 'Copy the program to the remote computer if not found (-c)' (which is selected), 'Copy the program to the remote computer if newer (-cv)', and 'Force copy the program to the remote computer (-cf)'. At the bottom are 'OK', 'Cancel', and 'Help' buttons.

## Program File

Enter the path to the target executable (on the remote computer.)

## Parameters

Enter any command line parameters for the target executable.

## Start In

Enter the directory (on the remote computer) where you would like the process to start. Leave blank to use the directory which contains the program file.

## Exit code must be

Specify a range of exit codes for the action to succeed. This option is not available if "Wait For Completion" is enabled.

This option also includes the exit codes from PsExec itself. If PsExec fails to start the process, then it will return a PsExec exit code rather than an exit code from the process.

## Wait For Completion

Enable this option for PsExec to not exit before the remote program has completed. If it is not enabled, the action will exit as soon as the remote program is running.

"Wait For Completion" must be enabled in order to log output from the remote action, or in order to receive exit codes from the remote program.

### Capture standard output / Standard error

Enable one or both of these options in order to capture output from the remote program.

Because of the way in which PsExec outputs information, no "live" information is available before the program has ended. Also, information from Standard Output and Standard Error are not buffered in a chronological fashion - all of standard output is displayed in the log, followed by all of standard error (which includes PsExec's status output.)

### Copying Program File

These options allow the target executable to be copied to the remote computer if it does not already exist. The program must exist in the local application PATH, or alternatively at the local pathname specified for "Program".

The screenshot shows the 'PsExec (Execute Remote Program)' dialog box with the 'Process Options' tab selected. The dialog has a dark theme and a tabbed interface with 'General', 'Runtime', 'Remote', 'Program', and 'Process Options' tabs. The 'Process Options' tab contains two sections: 'Remote process options' and 'Remote process priority'. The 'Remote process options' section includes several checkboxes: 'Do not load the specific account's profile (-e)', 'Program interacts with remote computer's desktop screen (-i)', 'Specify session to run the process under' (with a 'Session ID' spinner set to 0), 'Run process as limited user (strip Administrator privileges) (-l)', 'Specify processors the application can run on: (-a)' (with an empty text box and a note '(Separate individual processors with a comma ie 1,2,3)'), 'Timeout for remote connection (-n):' (with a spinner set to 1 and the unit 'seconds'), and 'Used Elevated Token if available (-h)'. The 'Remote process priority' section includes six radio buttons: 'Low', 'Below normal', 'Normal' (which is selected), 'Above normal', 'High', and 'Real time'. At the bottom of the dialog are 'OK', 'Cancel', and 'Help' buttons.

### Load the specific account's profile

Enable this option to load account profile information (environment variables, etc.) before executing the program.

### Program interacts with remote computers' desktop screen

Enable this option to make the remote application show up on the user's desktop. Otherwise, it will run invisibly in the background. Some graphical application require this option to be enabled in order to work properly.

### Specify session to run the process under

When using the "Program interacts with remote computers' desktop screen" option, use this option to specify the ID of the interactive session to run the process within.

**Run process as limited user**

If this option is enabled, then even if the account specified on the "Remote" tab has Administrator privileges, the remote application will not.

**Specify processors the application can run on**

Use this option to specify Processor Affinity for the remote program. List processors by number, and separate individual processors with a comma.

**Timeout for remote connection**

Specify a timeout length for network communications.

**Remote Process Priority**

Specify a priority level for the target process. Specifying above Normal process priority may make the remote system unresponsive, and Realtime priority has the potential to crash the remote system completely.