

# New InstallAware X15 with Context Menu Bridge for Windows 11

*InstallAware X15 launching on Friday upgrades all legacy context menus used in the File Explorer to Windows 11 standards, without any code changes or recompiles*

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/EINPresswire.com/ -- InstallAware Software, the technology leader in software installation, repackaging, and virtualization solutions for application builders and enterprises, is launching

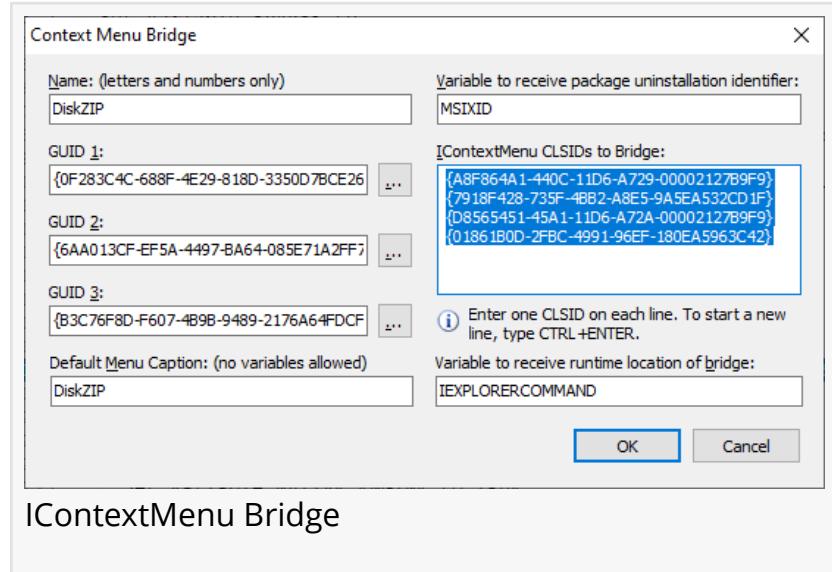
[InstallAware X15](#) on Friday this week.

InstallAware is the most flexible platform for traditional and agile development teams creating Windows and Azure software installers, as well as MSIX, APPX, App-V Virtualization, agentless/royalty-free InstallAware Virtualization packages.



InstallAware saves you hundreds of hours learning three full stacks (COM for the context menu, MSIX for the packaging, WinRT for the installation) just to get your context menus working in Windows 11!"

*Jason Strathmore*



IContextMenu Bridge

Until the recent release of Windows 11, software developers had a straightforward way to inject their own menu items into the "context menus" shown in the Windows File Explorer. The context menu is shown when end-users highlight a group of files and/or folders, and subsequently click their selection using the right mouse button. This menu is typically customized by third party apps so end-users have a quick way to access core product functionality. For example, [DiskZIP](#) injects "Add to 7ZIP" to this context menu, whereby it instantly compresses all selected files and folders; without the end-user ever having

to leave the File Explorer or launch (save learn) the stand-alone DiskZIP application.

From Windows 10 through all earlier versions dating back to Windows 95, implementing an IContextMenu COM object, together with a couple of new registry keys, would have been sufficient to extend the context menu. However, Windows 11 changed the way developers tap

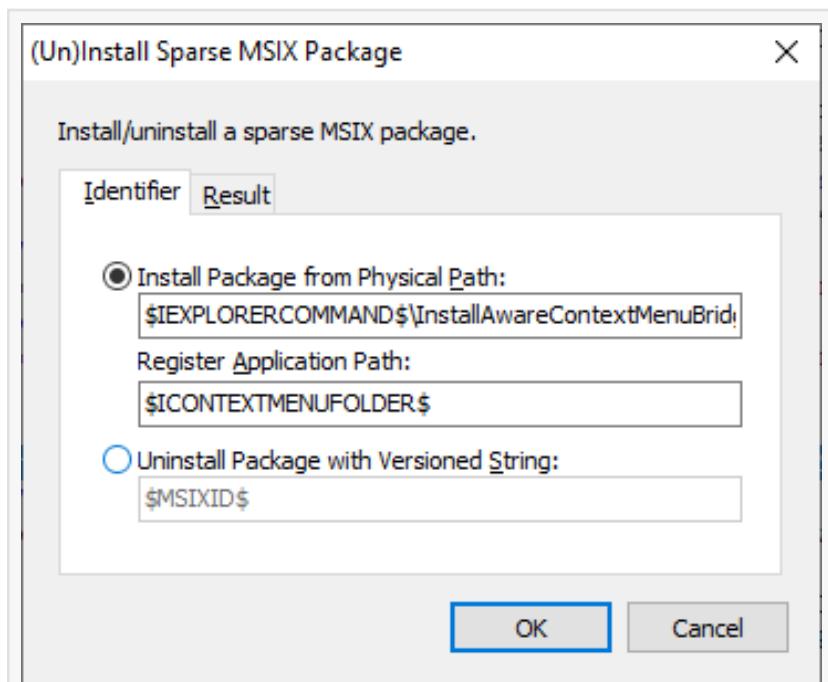
into the context menu. Developers must now implement the `IExplorerCommand` COM object, which is entirely incompatible with all existing `IContextMenu` interfaces and logic. They must then build what are called “sparse MSIX packages”, themselves an extension of relatively new MSIX packaging technology. Finally, developers must write even more custom code to register these “sparse MSIX packages” (or remove them during uninstallation).

InstallAware X15 rescues developers from having to learn these three brand-new software development stacks just to get their menus showing under Windows 11. InstallAware X15 provides an intelligent `IExplorerCommand` COM object which wraps any number of legacy `IContextMenu` implementations, bridging over all existing menu captions, display logic, and activation behaviors seamlessly to the newly released Windows 11 File Explorer. InstallAware X15 also takes care of building the necessary “sparse MSIX packages” which are required to install the bridged menus, and furthermore handles the actual registration (and removal) of these “sparse MSIX packages”.

Developers check a single “[Context Menu Bridge](#)” check-box in the powerful InstallAware X15 IDE to enable all of this new functionality. They do not need to rewrite a single line of their existing code. Since no code changes are required, developers do not even need to recompile anything! They simply type their existing menu IDs inside a box, and InstallAware X15 takes care of all the rest. Should further customizations be required, in the best tradition of InstallAware, all of its auto-generated code is fully editable in the underlying script; where direct access to new language commands such as “Context Menu Bridge” and “(Un)Register Sparse MSIX Package” provide unfettered access under the hood.

## About InstallAware Software

InstallAware Software, founded in 2003, is the leading Cloud Infrastructure Company with its laser sharp focus on bullet-proof enterprise software deployment. InstallAware has been



## (Un)Install Sparse MSIX Package

```

5  if Variable MSIXID is Defined
6    if Variable MSIXID not Equals
7      Set Variable PROGRESS to 50
8      Install/Remove Sparse MSIX Package $MSIXID$ (get result into variable SPARSE
9      if Variable SPARSE not Equals SUCCESS
10        MessageBox: $TITLE$ Setup, Something happened while trying to remove Windo
11      end
12    end
13  end
14  Set Variable SPARSE to
15  Set Variable SPARSEFAILURE to
16  Set Variable IEXPLORERCOMMAND to
17  Set Persistent Variable MSIXID to
18  Context Menu Bridge Disk2ZIP for CLSID: {A8F864A1-440C-11D6-A729-00002127B9F9} $NE

```

## Context Menu Bridge Application Runtime

recognized by multiple awards coming from Microsoft, SDTimes "Leader of the Software Development Industry", Visual Studio Magazine Reader's Choice, ComponentSource, WindowsITPro, among other recognition. InstallAware X15 is available in a free edition for all Visual Studio users and paid editions with prices starting at \$395. For a fully functional 14-day trial and more information, visit [www.installaware.com](http://www.installaware.com).

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