

# Gem State Computers nLite Guide

This guide will cover nLite and how to use it for creating a universal unattended reinstall disk for XP Home, Pro or Media Center Edition. It will also include instructions on how to integrate Drive Packs, and do an offline update after the install is completed. I will assume that you have some basic computer knowledge and skills along with some basic equipment. There are ways this can be done to have it fit on a CD. I don't do it that way. I use a DVD since it offers more room for additional tools. If the computer I am reinstalling does not have DVD drive I will install one temporarily, it is a lot less hassle this way. This is also a good opportunity to sell an add on DVD drive.

Items you will need:

[nLite](#)

[.Net Framework 2.0](#) If you do not have it you will be prompted to install it

Appropriate install media for XP Home/Pro/MCE/tablet/64

Blank DVDs and DVD Burner - (Remember to burn the disks at the lowest speed supported to maximize compatibility)

[Driver Packs Base](#)

[Driver Packs](#)

[XP Service Pack 3](#)

[ct Offline Update](#)

Start by downloading nLite and installing it. Start the program. Inset the appropriate disk into the drive and point nLite to the drive. I create 1 DVD per version of XP. So I name the folders appropriately. for this tutorial I will be using XP Pro. I create a folder on my desktop called XP Pro. This will be my working folder for nLite. Now that nLite has copied the setup files to th folder it is time to begin. On the "task selection" page choose Service Pack, Unattended, Components ( if you want to remove stuff that never gets used) and Tweaks if you want to setup default themes and such. Click next

Point nLite to the [SP3 file](#) (you want the full network version) and it will

slipstream it into the setup files. Click Next. Now comes the unattended install stuff. Under the General tab is where you put the Product Key. Use any valid key at this point, after the install is complete you will be changing it to the one provided by the customer. I also Check the "Skip OOBE" option. Under the Users tab, select the Admin account. Change the name input a password for it. Create a new user account, this is the one that the customer will use on a day to day basis. In an ideal world we could make it a limited user, but that just does not work well with XP. Also deselect "Must have password" for this user. Next tab up is the Owner and Network ID info. Fill in all the sections as you see fit, just make sure that you fill them with something. Under the Regional tab select your time zone and custom languages if needed. Next tab is Desktop Themes. Select your preferred theme. You can also insert any themes from the local machine. Under the Automatic Updates tab choose the time and method that suits you.

Now for the driver packs. I use all of them since I have the space on the DVD. Using all of them will also slow down the installation process a little, around 3-10 minutes depending on the speed of the machine. The idea is to spend some time now to save a ton later looking for missing drivers. Download the [base file](#) and all the [packs](#) you want to integrate. Run the driver packs base installer and extract the files to a folder named "Driver Pack Files". In this folder you will have a folder named "Driver Packs" this is where you will put all the driver packs when you get them downloaded. Once all the actual packs are downloaded run the program DPs\_Base in the folder where you extracted the files. Click the --> until you get to the "Select location of platform" page. Once there click "browse" and point to the XP folder that you created on your Desktop earlier. Again with the --> to select the packs to slipstream. Select all and Click the --> again and choose method two. --> again and choose GUIRunOnce. Now to Slipstream them click "Slipstream". You may also go through the optional settings but the defaults are fine for those. The slipstream process will start and complete. Click ok, when it is complete and the application will close. Note - if you can't select all the packs or they are greyed out check that the packs are in the right folder and that they are just as you downloaded them. There is no need to decompress them.

The next step is to get the files for the offline update. This will bring a system up to date with all windows updates as of the day the file was created. This will do an offline so you do not have to wait for a bunch of files to download from Microsoft. Get the most recent version of [ct Offline Update](#). Save the file, extract it and run "update generator". Select the appropriate language of XP and choose "per selected product and language" at the bottom. Click start and just chill out while it does its thing. Note - it helps to have a speedy connection to the web. At some point this process will complete click "ok" on the completion dialogue. Now to integrate these into

the XP CD folder.. and I use the word integrate loosely, all we are really doing is copying the update files to a folder labeled "offline update" in the XP CD folder. However, ctupdate creates an ISO file for burning to disk. You have two options at this point. Burn the disk and copy the files to the folder or mount the image and copy them to the folder. Choose your poison and get it done. To locate the ISO image look in the ctupdate4 folder and locate the folder named "iso". If you need a program to mount the image use [Daemon Tools Light](#).

Other items I include on the disk:

A folder of all the applications I may want to install on the PC, up to date versions of the following:

FireFox	Thunderbird	7zip
AVG 8.0	CDBruner XP	<a href="#">.Net Framework</a>
Foxit Reader	KeePass	Picasa
iTunes	VLC	Open Office.org

A folder of folders. It saves me the time it would take to create them all. The folders include: Disk images; Documents; Downloaded Files; Music; Other; Photos; and Videos.

The files needed to change the support info on the system properties dialogue.

A text file on how to change the XP Key manually.

My remote support application.

A vb script that I use to change the IE title bar

A text file on how to disable precaching for FireFox.

My ever growing collection of wallpapers. I don't know why but people seem to love wallpapers.

Now for the disk creation. Open up nLite again. Click next till you get to

the "task selection" page and highlight bootable ISO. Click next, change the label if you like and click "make ISO" to begin the creation process. It will prompt you for a save location of the ISO file. Once the image is created do the process over for any other versions of XP you have - Home/Pro/MCE/64/ Tablet -. Burn the ISO(s) to disk. Label them and store for use in the field.

To use the disk insert in the drive and boot from it. Let windows install. Once into windows change the key if needed. Register with MS if needed. Do the offline updates by going to the folder "offline update" on the disk and run "update installer" deselect the office products option as you have none installed at this point. Install IE7 works with mixed results leave it checked as it can't hurt. Click start and let it do its magic. Double check windows update to catch any new updates. Load your applications and other goodies from the disk and enjoy your new windows quick install. As the driver packs and windows updates are constantly being updated it is a good idea to create an updated disk every month or so. To make this process less of a hassle keep your working folder around and update it as needed.

Questions, suggestions, feedback & how it worked for you can be sent to at [GemStateComputers@cableone.net](mailto:GemStateComputers@cableone.net) As I will be updating this guide I would greatly appreciate any info on how to make it better.

Happy computing

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17 Feb 2009 - Update. I use the method above with two changes. 1. I don't put a product key in the unattended install portion, it takes less time to input it during the install than it does to change it afterward, and the likelihood of my forgetting to replace it goes to 0%. 2. I don't currently use the offline update, sine XP sp 3 there are relatively few updates and it is quicker to do them online.

29 July 2009 - Update. I now use C'T Offline update again with all of the updates that have to be cued up it is now saving on both time and bandwidth again.