

Deploying Apex Agent via VMware Golden Image Template

Platform: VMware vSphere Client & Apex Management Console | Target Audience: Technical Administrators / Systems Engineers

1. Purpose & Scope

This document outlines the end-to-end process for deploying the Apex Agent onto a VMware golden master virtual machine, converting the virtual machine to a template, and provisioning new managed endpoints with automated registration into the Apex console using the command-line option NOSTART=1. This must be done using the command line with administrator privileges.

Successful execution ensures streamlined mass provisioning, active telemetry collection, and centralized endpoint management across cloned virtual environments.

2. Administrative Considerations

IMPORTANT WARNING:

- Using the command-line option NOSTART=1 must be done using the command line with administrator privileges.
- Ensure valid organizational enrollment keys and customization specifications (e.g., automated hostname and network configuration) are applied during deployment to prevent duplicate endpoint names within the Apex platform.

3. Step-by-Step Deployment Procedure

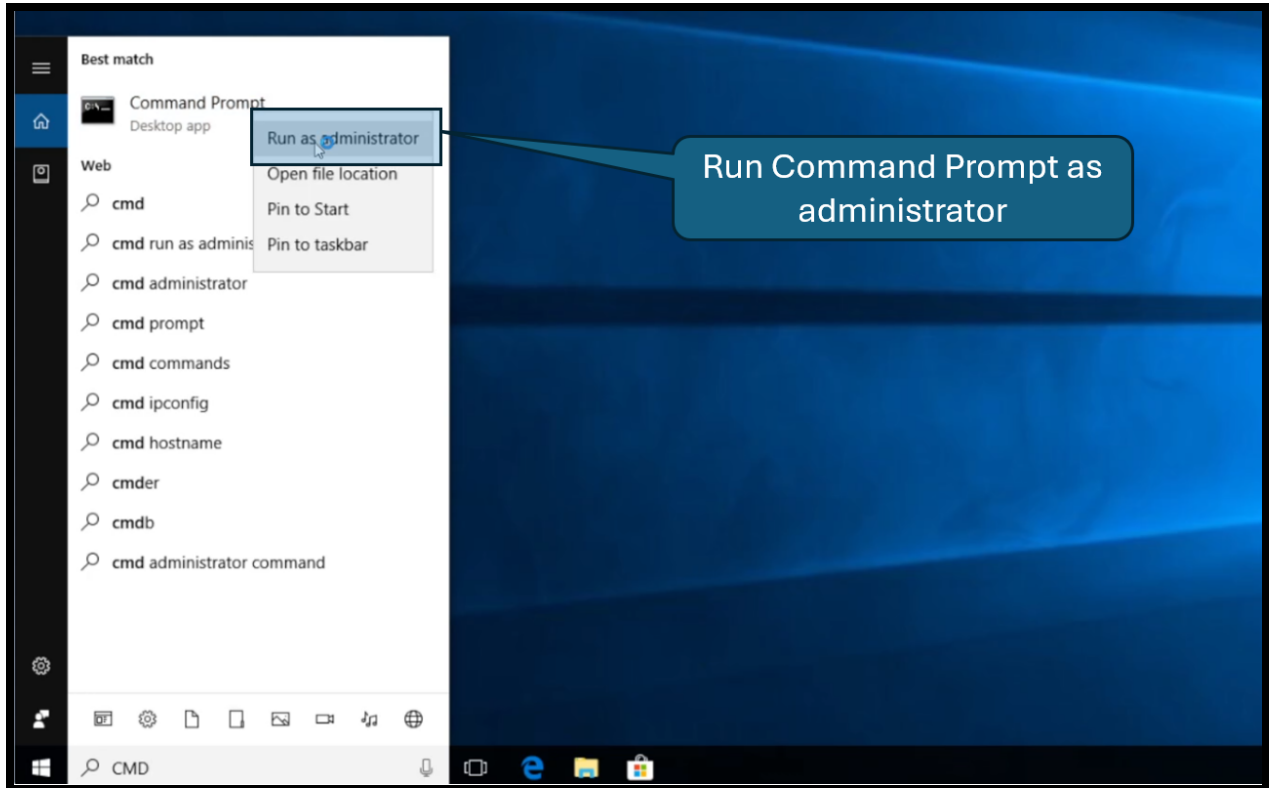
Access the Golden Image Virtual Machine and Install the Aipex Agent

1. Navigate to **vSphere Client > Hosts and Clusters / VMs and Templates**, locate the master VM (e.g., V3GoldSalesDesk), and click **LAUNCH REMOTE CONSOLE**.
2. Log in to the VM to access the desktop environment.

Execute the Silent Agent Installation to Install the Aipex Agent on Reboot

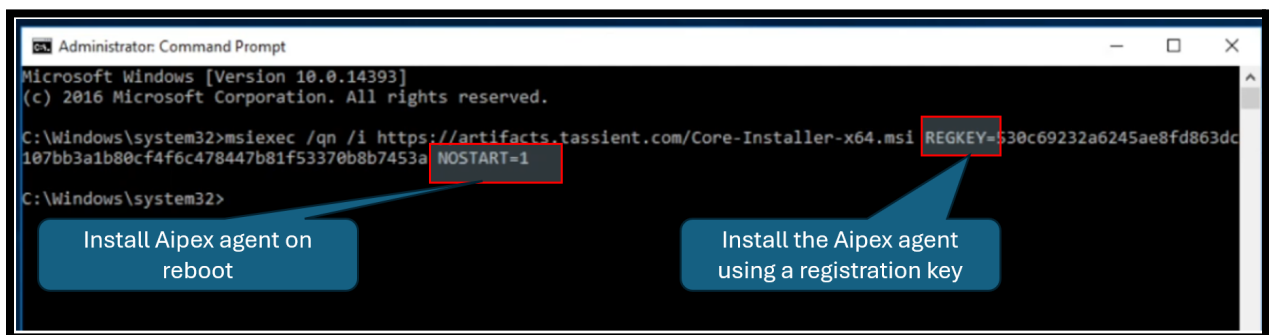
Using the NOSTART=1 switch will register the machine after the machine reboots. It must be installed with administrator privileges.

1. Open an elevated **Administrator Command Prompt** within the guest OS.



2. Enter the silent installation string referencing the registration key and install the agent when the cloned VM boots using the NOSTART=1 switch:

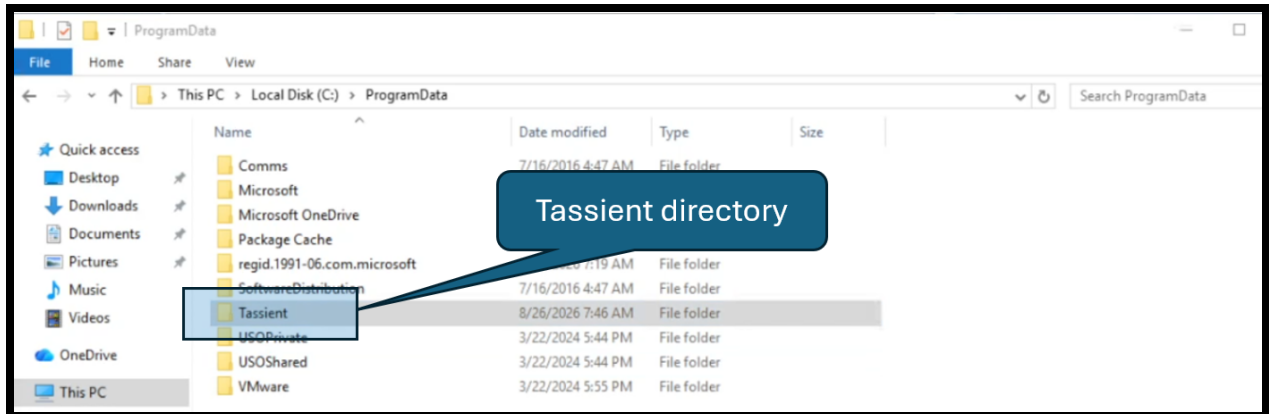
msiexec /qn /i https://artifacts.tasslent.com/core-installer-x64.msi REQKEY=[Device Enrollment Key] NOSTART=1



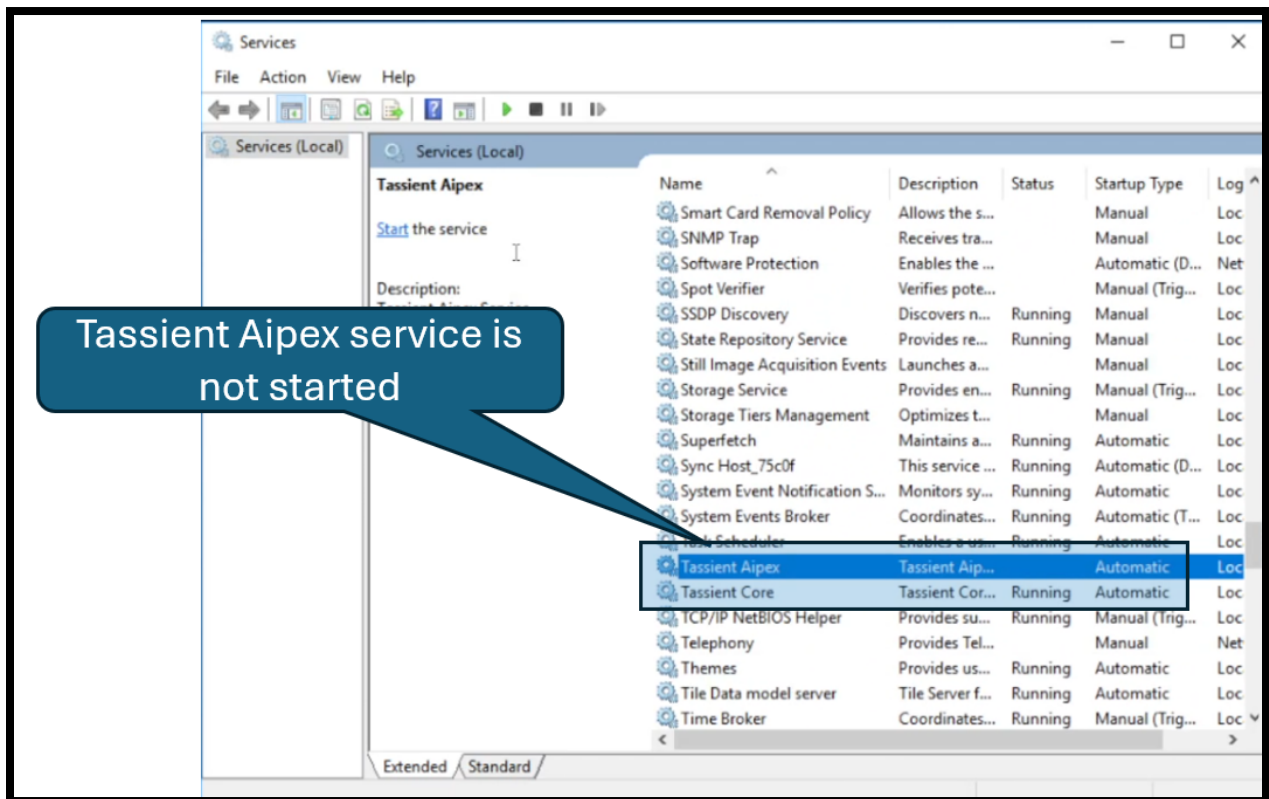
Validate Local Agent Services

The agent will have a directory and services installed on the golden master image, but the Aipex service will not be running.

1. Verify that the **C:\ProgramData\Tasslent** directory has been created.



2. Open the Windows **Services** management console (**services.msc**) and confirm that both **Tassient Agent** and **Tassient Core** services are present. The Aipec core service will NOT be running.



Power Off and Convert VM to Template

1. Perform a clean shutdown of the guest OS.
2. In the **vSphere Client**, right-click the powered-off virtual machine (e.g., **V3GoldSalesDesk**), select **Template > Convert to Template**, and click **YES** on the confirmation prompt.

Deploy Cloned Endpoint from Template

Once the gold master image has the agent installed, a cloned VM can be created from it.

1. Right-click the newly created template (e.g., **V3GoldSalesDesk**), select **New VM from This Template...**, and complete the deployment wizard:
 - **Select a name and folder:** Enter the virtual machine name (e.g., **SalesDesktop11**) and select a target folder (e.g., **Sales_Desktops**)
 - **Select a compute resource**
 - **Select storage**
 - **Select clone options:** Enable **Customize the operating system** and **Power on virtual machine after creation**.
 - **Customize guest OS:** Select a customization specification that will give the VM a new hostname and click **FINISH**.

Verify Endpoint Enrollment and Telemetry

Once the clone has been created and powered on, it will be available via the Aipex dashboard.

1. Open the **Apex Management Console** and navigate to the **Devices** section.
2. Verify that the newly provisioned endpoint (e.g., **SALESDESKTOP11**) appears in the active device inventory.

4. Summary of Navigation Path

The following reference matrix provides an authoritative, at-a-glance operational index of interface pathways, UI targets, and administrator execution steps:

Step / Phase	Interface Location	Action Required
1. Agent Installation	Guest OS > Administrator Command Prompt	Execute a silent msixec installation with the enrollment key and the NOSTRT=1 switch