

Deploying Golden Image Virtual Machines with Pre-Registered Apex Agent

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

1. Purpose & Scope

This document defines the end-to-end workflow for installing and registering the Apex onto a Windows golden master virtual machine, converting the VM into a vSphere template, and provisioning customized virtual desktop instances. It will register the cloned images when they boot.

Executing this procedure ensures rapid, standardized virtual machine deployment with automated platform enrollment, licensing assignment, and real-time telemetry streaming.

2. Administrative Considerations

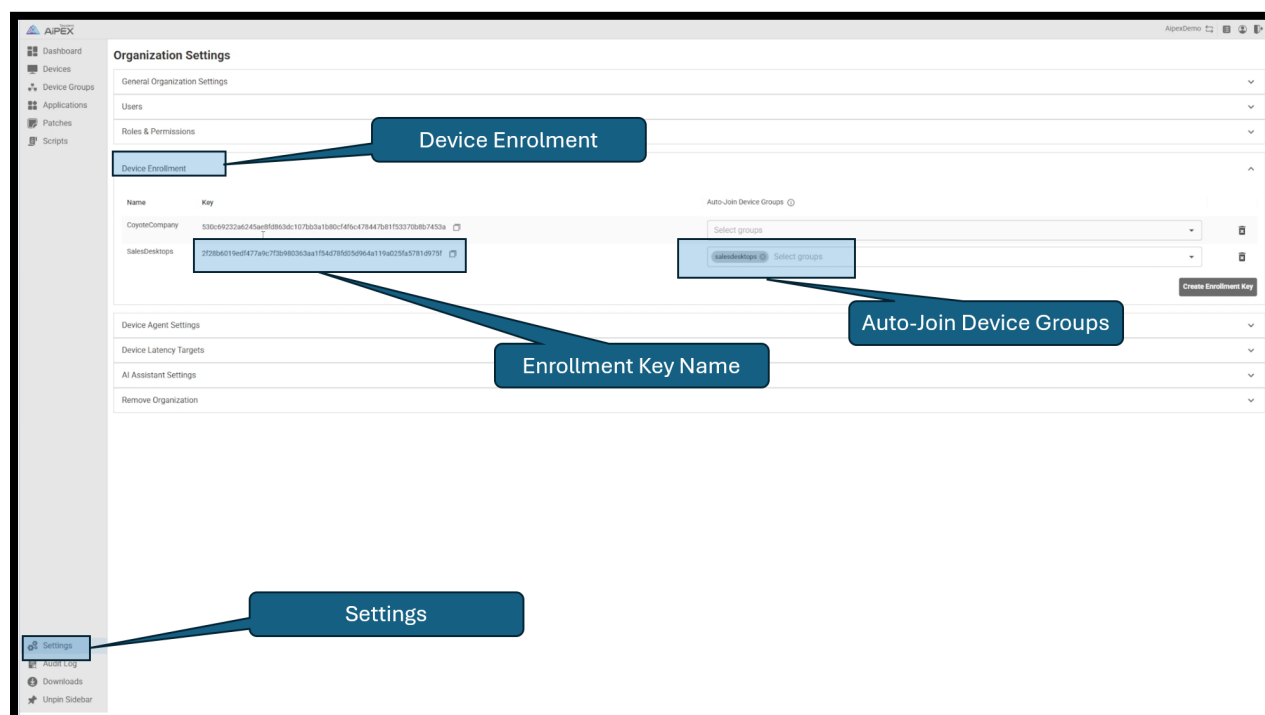
IMPORTANT WARNING:

- This procedure was done on VMware vSphere 7.x, but the concepts can be used with later versions of vSphere and other systems that can clone images.

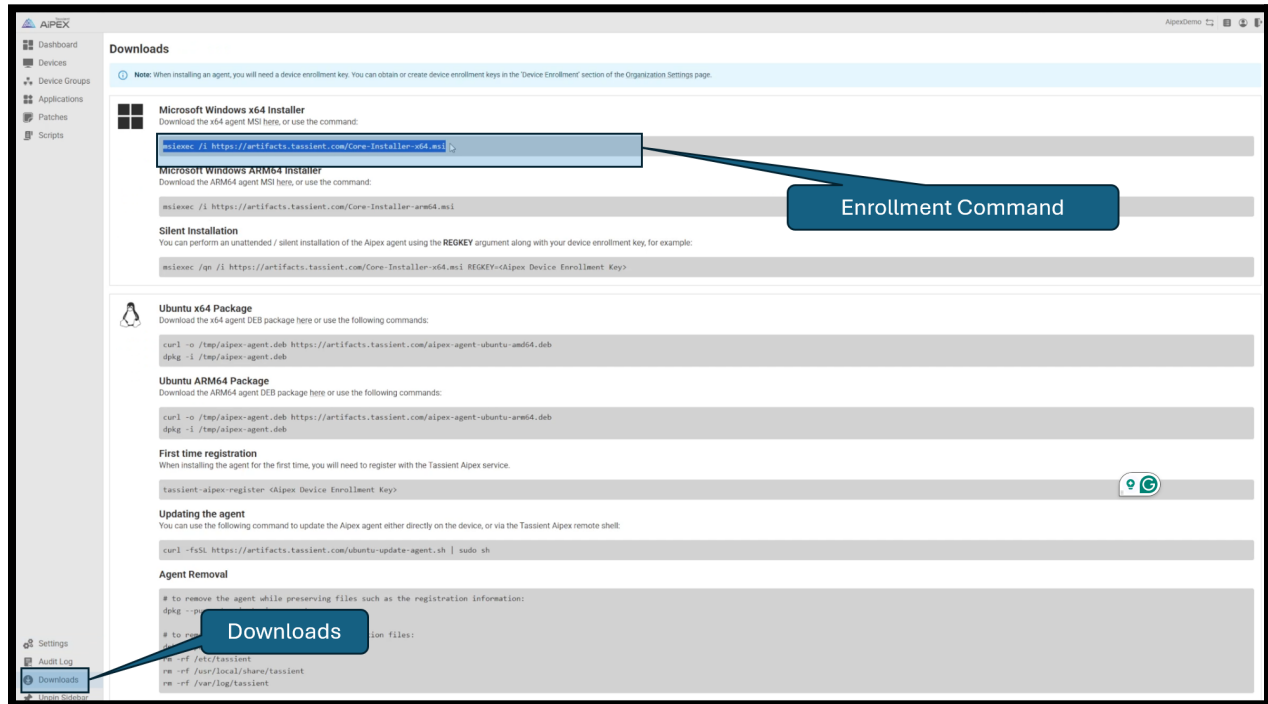
3. Step-by-Step Deployment Procedure

Retrieve Agent Installer and Enrollment Credentials

1. Navigate to and log in to the Apex management console at <https://apex.tassient.com>.
2. Select **Settings** from the left navigation pane and expand **Device Enrollment** under Organization Settings to copy the required tenant **Enrollment Key**.



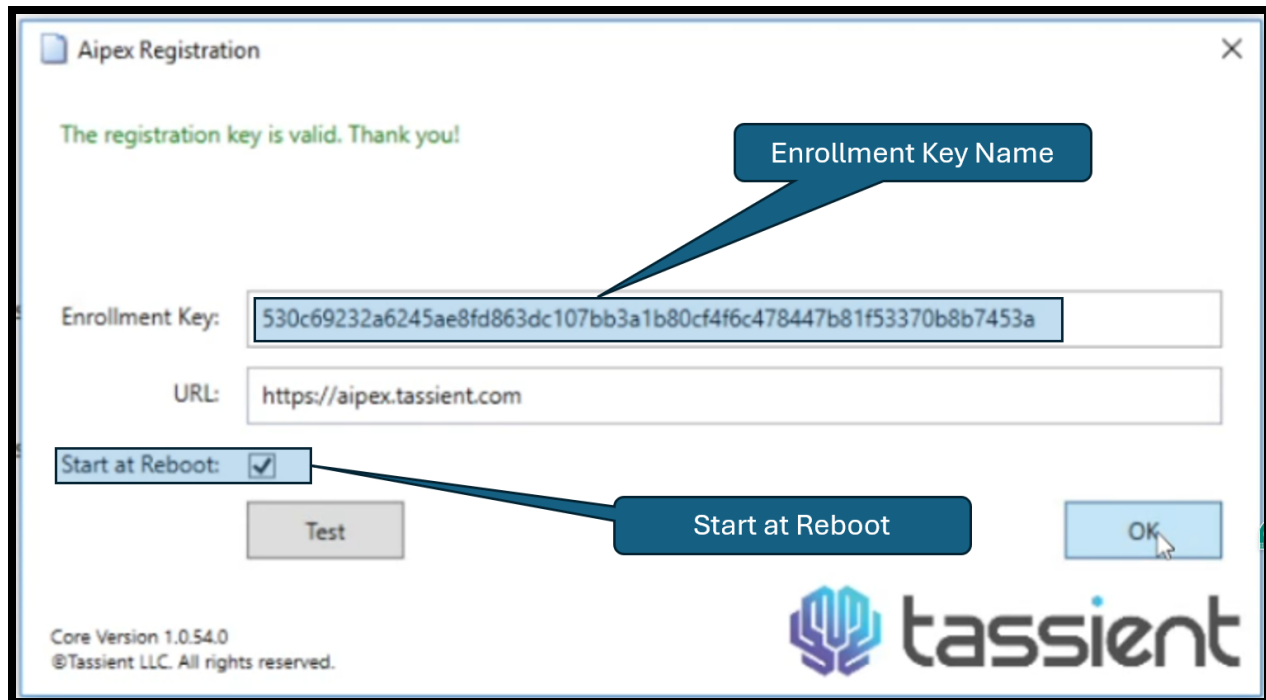
3. Navigate to **Downloads** from the left menu to reference the Windows x64 MSI artifact URL (<https://artifacts.tassient.com/core-installer-x64.msi>).



Install and Register Apex Agent on Master VM

Using **Start at Reboot** when installing the Aipex agent delays machine registration until the machine reboots.

1. Access the VMware vSphere Client inventory, locate the target master virtual machine (**V1GoldSalesDesk**), and select **LAUNCH WEB CONSOLE**.
2. Log on to the master virtual machine
3. Open an administrative **Command Prompt** and execute the installer package:
`msiexec /i https://artifacts.tassient.com/core-installer-x64.msi`
4. In the **Apex Registration** modal, paste the organization key into the **Enrollment Key** field.
5. Click the **Start at Reboot** checkbox. **This will not register the machine until the cloned machine reboots.**
6. Click **Test** to validate connectivity, verify the 'The registration key is valid. Thank you!' response and click **OK** to complete installation.



Shut Down and Convert VM to Template

1. Within the master VM guest OS, initiate a clean system shutdown via the Start Menu.
2. Return to the VMware vSphere Client, right-click **V1GoldSalesDesk** in the left inventory hierarchy, and navigate to **Template > Convert to Template**.
3. On the **Confirm Convert** dialog, click **YES**.

Deploy Cloned Desktop Virtual Machines

1. Right-click the newly created template **V1GoldSalesDesk** and select **New VM from This Template...**
2. Configure **Select a name and folder**:
 - **Virtual machine name**: **SalesDesktop01** (repeat for subsequent clones, e.g., **SalesDesktop02**).
 - **Location**: Target destination folder (e.g., **Sales_Desktops**).
 - Click **NEXT**.
3. Select compute resource host (e.g., **10.0.0.25**) and click **NEXT**.
4. Select destination storage datastore (e.g., **RS30A-2GB**) and click **NEXT**.
5. In **Select clone options**, enable the checkboxes for **Customize the operating system** and **Power on virtual machine after creation**, then click **NEXT**.
6. In **Customize guest OS**, select a customization specification that will give the clone a new name and click **NEXT**.
7. Review the configuration summary and click **FINISH** to initiate cloning.

Once the cloned machine has booted, it will appear on the Aipex dashboard.

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. Credential Retrieval	Apex Console > Settings > Device Enrollment	Copy organization Enrollment Key and agent MSI URL.
2. Agent Installation	Master VM Console > Windows Command Prompt	Execute MSI installer and complete the Apex Registration prompt.
3. Template Conversion	vSphere Client > VM Inventory > V1GoldSalesDesk	Right-click > Template > Convert to Template > Confirm YES.
4. VM Provisioning	vSphere Client > Template > V1GoldSalesDesk	Select New VM from This Template..., assign VM name and folder.
5. Guest Customization	Deploy From Template Wizard > Select clone options	Enable Customize the operating system & Power on virtual machine after creation.