Installing Required Runtimes for FieldGenius on Windows IoT Devices

FieldGenius requires Microsoft components that are **not included by default** with Windows 10 IoT Enterprise and Windows 11 IoT Enterprise.

This condensed guide shows you how to manually add the required runtimes so FieldGenius can install and run correctly.

Summary of Steps

1. Install **Windows App Runtime 1.8+** (via EXE).
2. Install **App Installer** (via PowerShell).

   Once these dependencies are present, reboot your Windows IoT computer. Then FieldGenius should install and operate normally.

Install and run FieldGenius.

Background

Windows IoT Enterprise is a specialized edition of Windows designed for embedded and dedicated devices, such as industrial tablets, kiosks, point-of-sale systems, and rugged field hardware.

It is based on **Windows Enterprise LTSC (Long-Term Servicing Channel)**, meaning it shares the same core as desktop Windows but is optimized for **embedded systems**.

IoT Enterprise is designed for **controlled deployments**, not general-purpose app installation. OEMs typically preinstall required runtimes, so Microsoft does not bundle optional components like **App Installer** or **Windows App SDK runtime** by default.

Detailed Instructions

Step 1 – Install Windows App Runtime

NOTE: it is highly recommended that you connect a USB mouse and keyboard to your device before continuing as it is difficult to complete these steps with a touchscreen.

Download **Windows App SDK Redistributable (ZIP)** from the official Microsoft site.

Link: https://learn.microsoft.com/windows/apps/windows-app-sdk/downloads

Unpack the ZIP and copy the `x64.exe` version onto your tablet:
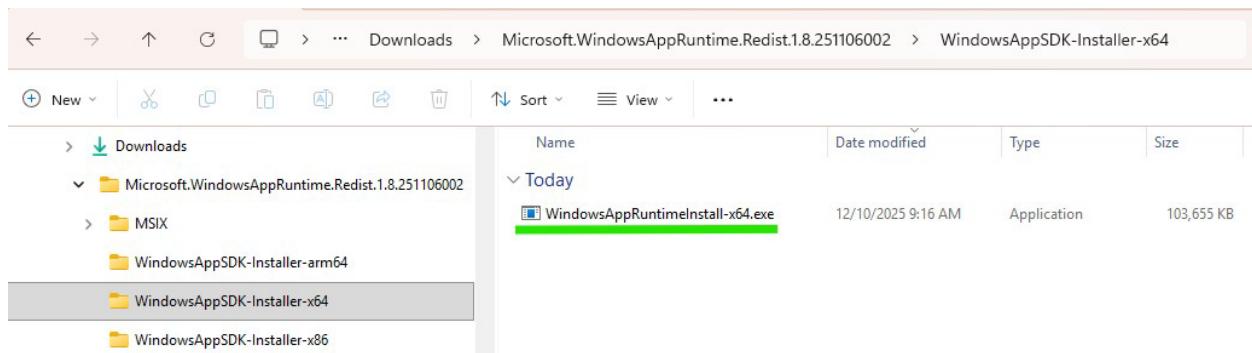
Run the executable to install the runtime on your tablet:
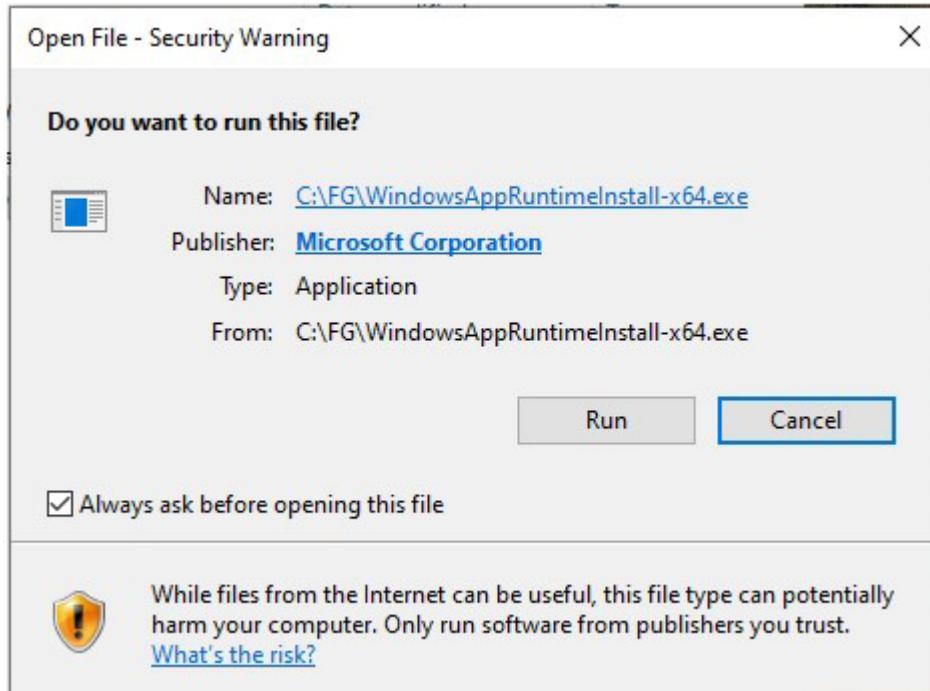
Step 2 – Install App Installer

Download **App Installer (MSIXBUNDLE)** from the official Microsoft site.
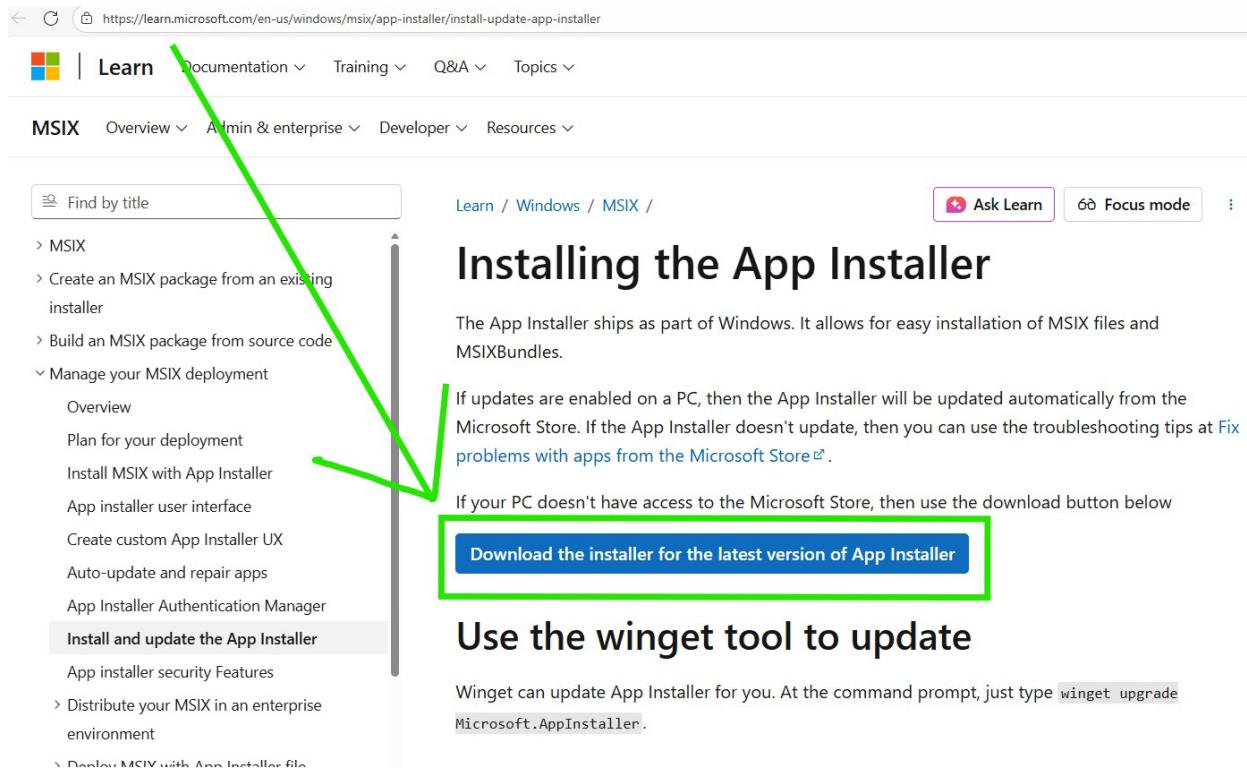
Link: https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/msix/app-installer/install-update-appinstaller

Copy the `*.msixbundle` installer file onto your tablet.

Once copied, rename the *.msixbundle to Microsoft.DesktopAppInstaller.msixbundle

 Create a new folder in your C: Drive named FG

Open PowerShell as an Administrator:
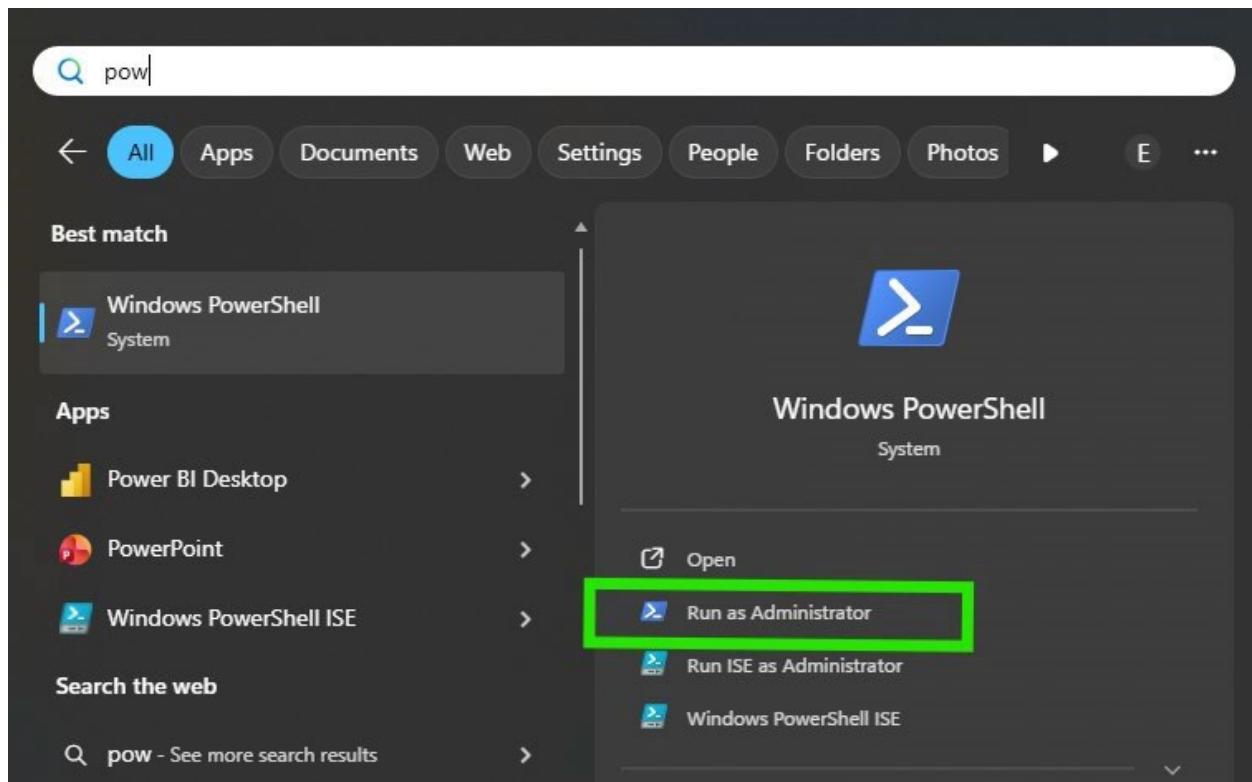
Navigate to the folder where you copied the msixbundle file by entering:

CD C:\FG

Type in the following PowerShell command to begin the install process:

Add-AppxPackage

Powershell will prompt for the installer file name. At the $Path:$ prompt type:

Microsoft.DesktopAppInstaller.msixbundle
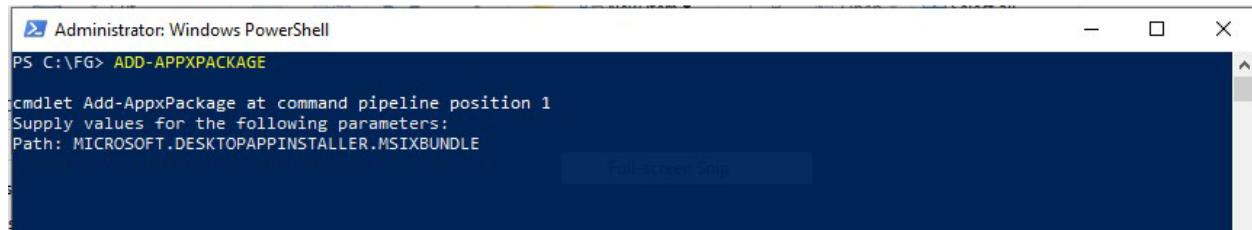
Step 3 – Install FieldGenius

Important: Reboot your tablet after Steps 1 & 2

Now the MSIX installer files will be recognized on your Windows IOT tablet. Copy the FieldGenius_Windows_3.2.XXXXX.MSIX file onto your tablet and double-click to begin the installation process.
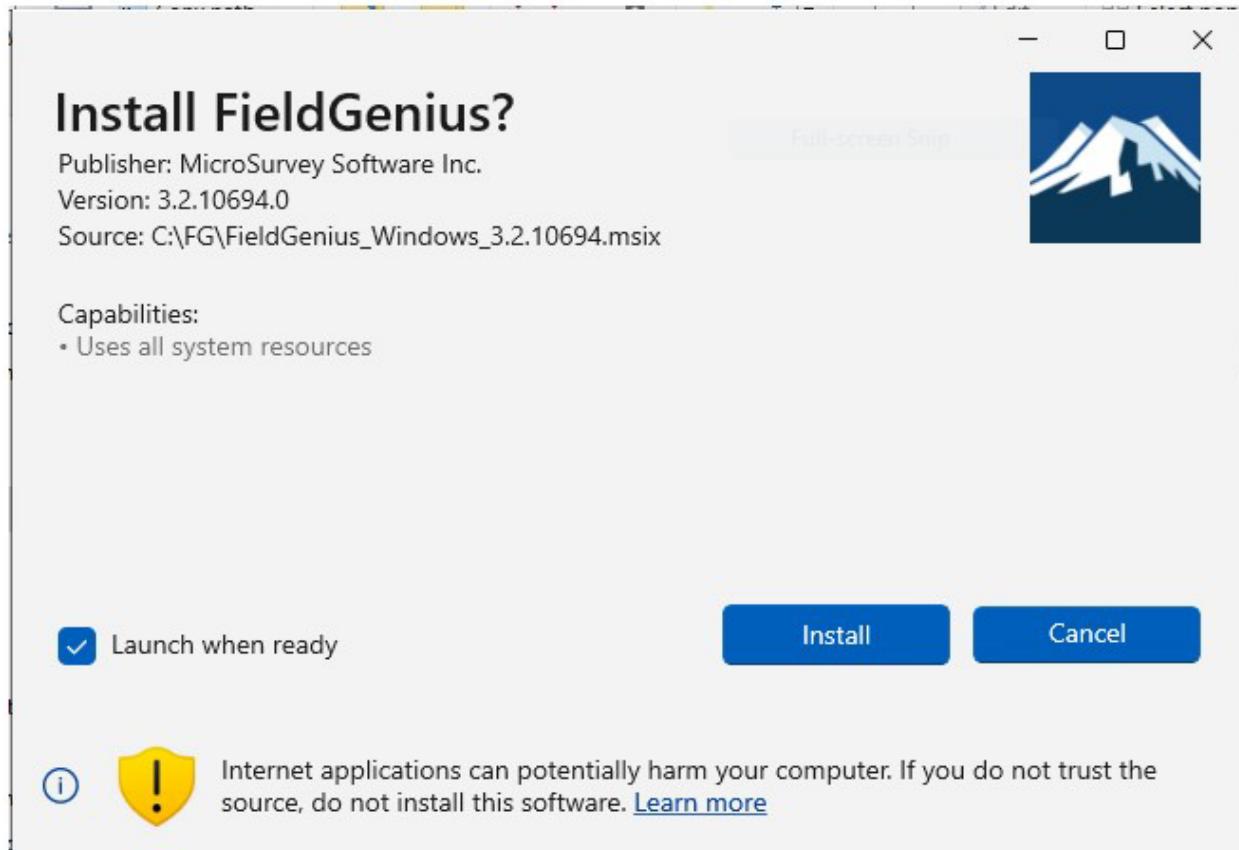
NOTE: if, when you double click the msix file you are prompted to select an application to open the file with, or if the msix file has an Internet Exporer icon, take these steps to associate an msix file with App Installer:

1. Open **Settings**.
2. Navigate to **Apps** > **Default apps**.
3. Click on **Choose default apps by file type** (or just search for ".msix" in the search bar if available in your Windows version).
4. Locate the .msix file extension in the list.
5. Click the current associated program (which is likely Internet Explorer) and change it to **App Installer** or **Windows Installer**.

For easier access, right-click the 'FieldGenius' shortcut in the Start menu and select **Pin to Start** or **Pin to Taskbar**.