
APS Application Certification Criteria

1.1

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Table of Contents

1. Introduction	1
2. Overview	1
2.1. Procedure	2
2.2. Result	2
2.3. Requirement changes	2
2.4. Application changes	2
3. Requirements	2
3.1. Silver certification level	2
3.1.1. Generic requirements	2
3.1.2. Requirements for PHP applications	3
3.1.3. Requirements for ASP.NET applications	4
3.1.4. Requirements for applications using databases	4
3.1.5. Requirements for applications using web content	4
3.2. Gold certification level	4
3.2.1. Sharing DB	4
3.2.2. Upgrades	4
3.2.3. Patches	4
3.2.4. Full change log	4
3.2.5. Screenshots	4
3.2.6. Languages	5
3.2.7. Categories	5
3.2.8. Predefined settings names	5
3.2.9. Summary	5
3.2.10. Description	5
3.2.11. Content size	5
3.2.12. Operating environment	5
3.2.13. Tests	5
4. Possible future extensions	5
4.1. Screenshots	5
5. Document history	5

1. Introduction

An APS Application certification has been created to distinguish the appropriately packaged application from ones that do not follow the APS Packaging guidelines.

There are two APS Application certification levels:

- Silver. "Works with APS"
- Gold. "Designed for APS"

Informally, the difference between these levels is that Gold applications, the highest level, follow the *best practices* for APS packaging, while Silver applications comply only to the *mandatory rules*. The formal set of requirements for each level is provided in the Section 3, "Requirements".

2. Overview

This section provides the generic outline of the APS Application Certification.

2.1. Procedure

The procedure for obtaining APS Application Certification is completely free. It includes:

- Validation of package consistency
- Validation of metadata correctness
- Validation of certification rules according to this document

2.2. Result

An outcome of a successful certification is an APS Application Certificate of Compliance. The Certificate is a digitally signed XML document that is both machine- and human-readable.

2.3. Requirement changes

We continue to work on improving and evolving the APS Application Certification criteria and process, therefore these Requirements are subject to change. In order to ensure that applications are up-to-date with the APS Application Certification Criteria, every certificate has a limited validity period. Vendors are encouraged to repeat the certification whenever the requirements are updated. The latest version of this document will always be available for download at APSstandard.com.

2.4. Application changes

A Conformance Certificate is bound to a particular APS Package. In the case of a new version or where an update is issued, it should be certified separately.

3. Requirements

This section lists the exact requirements

3.1. Silver certification level

An application will be certified as Silver if it satisfies the following requirements:

3.1.1. Generic requirements

The following requirements apply to any application packaged.

3.1.1.1. Well-formed package

An application must be packaged according to the APS format specification. That is, every "MUST" and "SHOULD" requirements in specification text must be satisfied.

3.1.1.2. Application homepage

Package metadata *must* contain the URL of the application homepage (`application/homepage` metadata element).

3.1.1.3. Packager information

Package metadata *must* contain both the URL of the packager homepage and complete packager name. An URL *must* resolve to a page with content-type of either `text/html` or `application/*-xml`.

3.1.1.4. Vendor homepage

Package metadata *must* contain both the URL of the vendor homepage and complete vendor name. An URL *must* resolve to a page with content-type of either `text/html` or `application/*-xml`.

3.1.1.5. Default installation prefix

Package metadata must contain a default prefix for installation on domain (`application/default-prefix` metadata element).

3.1.1.6. Summary

Package metadata must contain a one-sentence summary of application (`application/summary` metadata element).

3.1.1.7. Description

Package metadata must contain a one-paragraph description of application (`application/description` metadata element).

3.1.1.8. Icon

Package metadata must contain an icon for the application (`application/icon/@path` metadata element must point to the icon in package). The icon should be of one of the following MIME types:

- `image/gif` (not animated)
- `image/jpeg`
- `image/png`

The image dimensions should be 64x64 pixels.

3.1.1.9. License

A package must contain text of the license agreement for the services aimed to be provided to end users (`application/license` metadata element).

A package must contain a Product Code.

3.1.1.10. Change log for current version

A package must contain a change log for the current version of application (`application/changelog` metadata element).

3.1.1.11. Configuration script

The configuration script must allow installation, reconfiguration and de-installation of the application.

3.1.1.12. Declaring dependencies

If the application needs a resource described in aspect (e.g. PHP or database), it must be declared by supplying aspect-specific requirement in the package metadata.

3.1.1.13. Localization

For each XML element localizable according to the format requirements, there must be a language-neutral entry (i.e. an entry without an `xml:lang` attribute).

3.1.2. Requirements for PHP applications

The following requirements apply to the applications declaring use of PHP aspect.

3.1.2.1. Minimum compatible version

A package must declare which versions of PHP are compatible with the application (`php:version` requirement element).

3.1.3. Requirements for ASP.NET applications

The following requirements apply to the applications declaring use of ASP.NET aspect.

3.1.3.1. Minimum compatible version

A package must declare which versions of ASP.NET are compatible with the application (`aspnet:version` requirement element).

3.1.4. Requirements for applications using databases

The following requirements apply to the applications declaring use of database aspect.

3.1.4.1. Default database name

A package must declare a default name for each database (`db/default-name` requirement element).

3.1.4.2. Compatible database servers

A package must declare a minimum compatible version of database server for each database (`db/server-min-version` metadata attribute).

3.1.5. Requirements for applications using web content

The following requirements apply to the applications declaring use of a web content aspect.

3.1.5.1. Content size

A package must declare an approximate size for each part in the web content description (`application/installed-size` metadata element).

3.2. Gold certification level

An application is certified as Gold if it satisfies the requirements of the Silver certification level and also satisfies the following additional requirements:

3.2.1. Sharing DB

If an application is capable of sharing database(s) with other applications by using table prefixes, this must be declared in the package by `db/can-use-tables-prefix` requirement element.

3.2.2. Upgrades

If an application supports upgrades from previous versions this must be declared in the package by `application/upgrades` or `application/upgradable-from` elements and the appropriate upgrade operation must be implemented in a configure script.

3.2.3. Patches

If an application supports updates from previous versions in patch mode, this must be declared in the package by `application/patches` or `application/patchable-from` elements.

3.2.4. Full change log

A package must contain change log for all released versions of the package (`application/changelog` metadata element).

3.2.5. Screenshots

A package must contain screenshots for the application (`application/screenshot` metadata element). Screenshots must be 640 pixels wide.

3.2.6. Languages

A package metadata must contain information about the languages supported by the application (`application/languages` metadata element).

3.2.7. Categories

A package metadata must contain information about the categories the package belongs to (`application/categories` metadata element). The categories used must be as defined in the APS Application Categories [<http://apsstandard.com/r/doc/aps--application-categories.pdf>] document.

3.2.8. Predefined settings names

A package must include settings for title and default locale of the service instance, name, password and email of the service user according to the specification.

3.2.9. Summary

Every declared service must have a summary information. An application and service summary should not contain line feed characters, and should not be longer than 256 UTF-16 characters (counting surrogate pairs for two chars).

3.2.10. Description

An application description must not be longer than 1024 UTF-16 characters, and should not be shorter than 256 UTF-16 characters (counting surrogate pairs for two chars).

3.2.11. Content size

The actual content size immediately after service provision must not exceed the content size claimed by the application metadata (per section Section 3.1.5.1, "Content size").

3.2.12. Operating environment

OS-dependent applications must require the environment needed (`/install/requirements/env:environment` metadata element)

3.2.13. Tests

The Application Certification Request must contain at least one test case, and this test case must be passed in order for an application to be Gold certified.

4. Possible future extensions

This section contains the rules that are not yet part of the certification process. Consider these rules as best practices. Future versions of this document may include these rules in the Requirements section.

4.1. Screenshots

Application screenshots specified per Section 3.2.5, "Screenshots" of this document must not contain the browser frame.

5. Document history

Revision History

Revision 1.1

18 April 2008

AntonZlygostev

- Removed "2.1.3. Packager homepage" requirement.
- Added Section 3.1.1.3, "Packager information"
- Added Section 3.1.1.4, "Vendor homepage"

- Added Section 3.1.1.13, “Localization”
- Added Section 3.2.9, “Summary”
- Added Section 3.2.10, “Description”
- Added Section 3.2.13, “Tests”
- Added Section 3.2.11, “Content size”
- Updated Section 3.1.1.9, “License”
- Updated Section 3.2.5, “Screenshots”
Revision 1.2 5 May 2008 VictorKupriyanov
- Added Section 3.2.12, “Operating environment”
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- Added Section 3.1.3, “Requirements for ASP.NET applications”