

PAD (Portable Application Description)

Who should Read this Article?

It is specially targeted for an author, application developer, webmaster, automation specialist. Basic knowledge of XML is necessary.

Why PAD?

Let's say your company has just released its product/application, so you think your company will start getting users just like that, who will download that product/application? Well the answer is no. Your company has to promote it by uploading it on various software download sites. Of course there are literally 1000's of such sites available in the market and it will take hours/days to submit the data on each website and there is a possibility of making error while typing / copying the content on each site. At the same time it is a repetitive task to upload the same data on various sites. Simple solution to this problem is creating a PAD file.

What is PAD?

PAD is a short form of **P**ortable **A**pplication **D**escriptor. In simple words it's a simple XML, which stores all relevant information of your product, which can be used by webmasters to publish your application. Is it really worth spending time on creating XML file? Yes!!!!, it's worth every penny to get this file created. It makes your life easy for maintaining and releasing various products.

PAD (**P**ortable **A**pplication **D**escription) is a machine-readable document format and specification designed by the [Association of Shareware Professionals](#). PAD specification is utilized by software publishers of downloadable applications, covering Windows, OS X, and Linux operating systems. The specification is managed by the ASP PAD Committee. PAD is a registered trademark of the Association of Software Professionals.

PAD allows software authors to provide standardized product descriptions and specifications to online sources in a standard way, using a simple XML Schema which also allows webmasters and program librarians to automate new program listings and update existing listings in their catalog.

PAD files most commonly have .XML or .PAD file name extension. PAD uses a simplified XML syntax that does not use name/value pairs in tags. All tags are attribute-free. The official PAD specification uses unique tags. To extract the fields in the official specification, it is not necessary to descend through the tag path. If multiple languages are represented in a single PAD file, then correct parsing does require descending through the tag path because leaf tags are duplicated for each language supported.

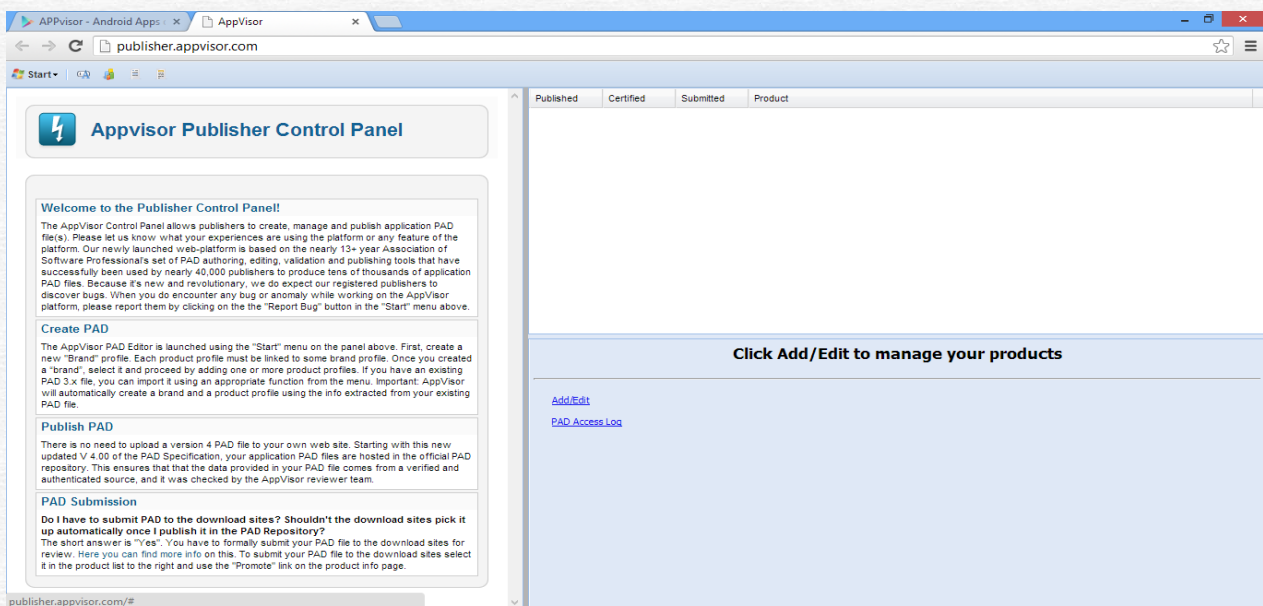
Each field in the specification has a regular expression associated with it. The regular expression acts as a constraint on the field: if it matches, the field value is legal and if it fails, the field and the PAD file as a whole do not conform to specification. Only those files, where all fields in the file pass validation are properly called PAD files.

Wow I get it now, how do I implement PAD file for my website?

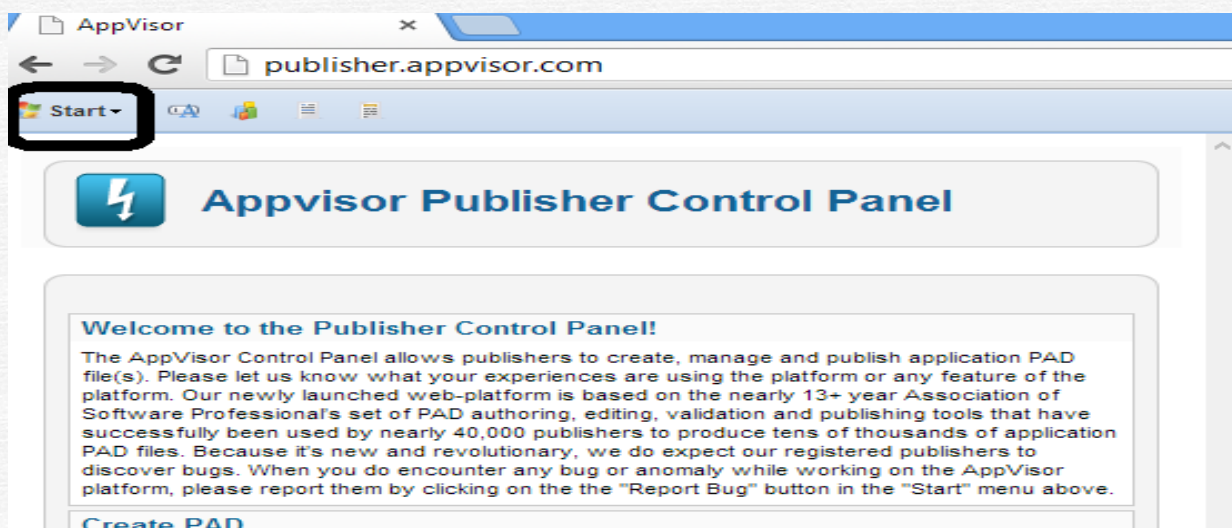
Earlier versions of PAD can be created using desktop versions. Current version of PAD is 4.0. There is no need to upload a version 4 PAD file to your own web site. Starting with this new updated V 4.0 of the PAD Specification, your application PAD files are hosted in the official PAD repository. This ensures that the data provided in your PAD file comes from a verified and authenticated source, and it was checked by the AppVisor reviewer team.

You can register yourself on [Appvisor](#). After successful registration the PAD authoring and publishing web tool will support both, a new PAD file for your new application and importing your existing PAD file. When your PAD file creation is completed, the PAD Validator reviews and automatically checks each required PAD field in real time. When your PAD file is validated, your v4.0 PAD file will be published and added to the 'Global PAD Repository' at [Appvisor Repository](#).

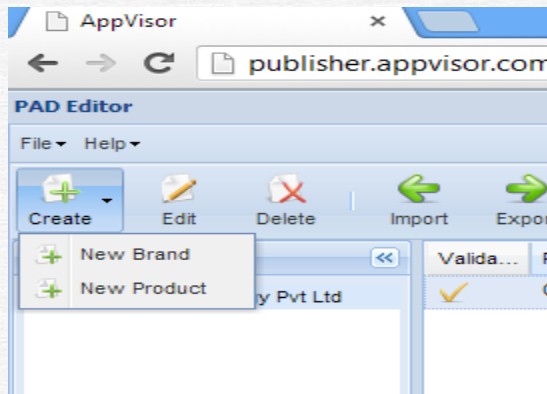
STEP 1: Register on Appvisor website



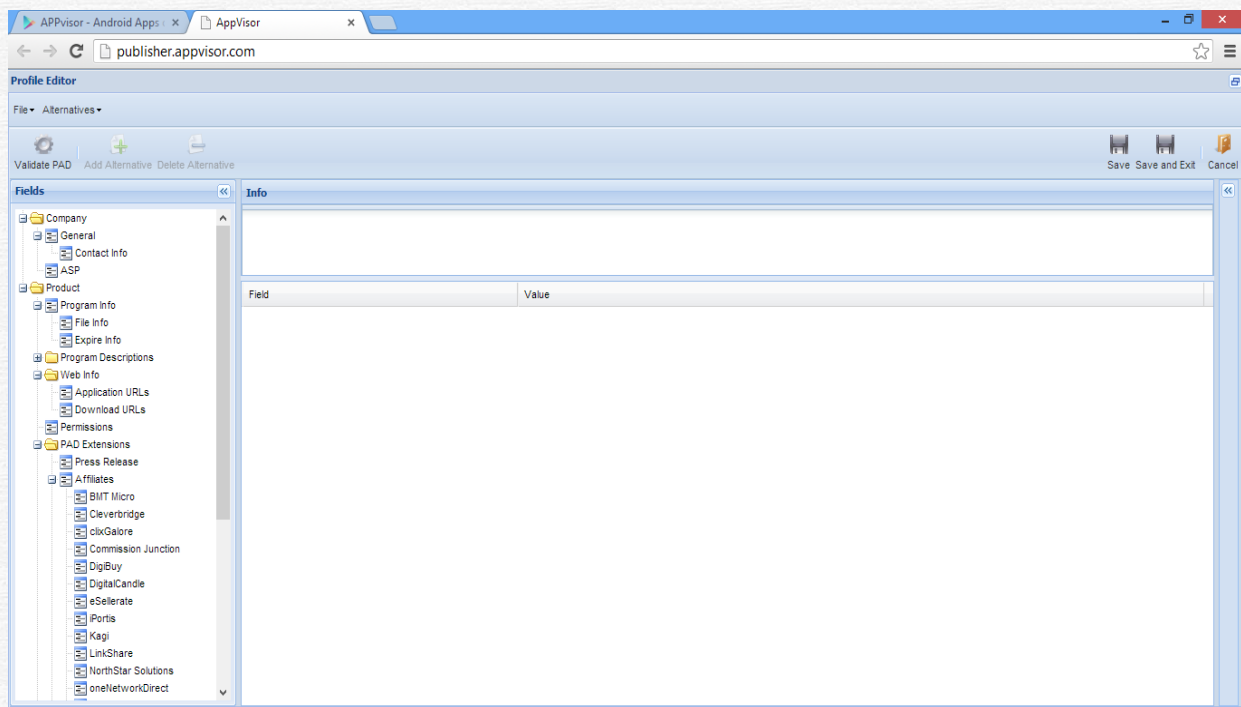
STEP 2: Click on Start Menu on website to access PAD Editor



STEP 3: Click on Create SubMenu to access New Product sub-menu to add your product.

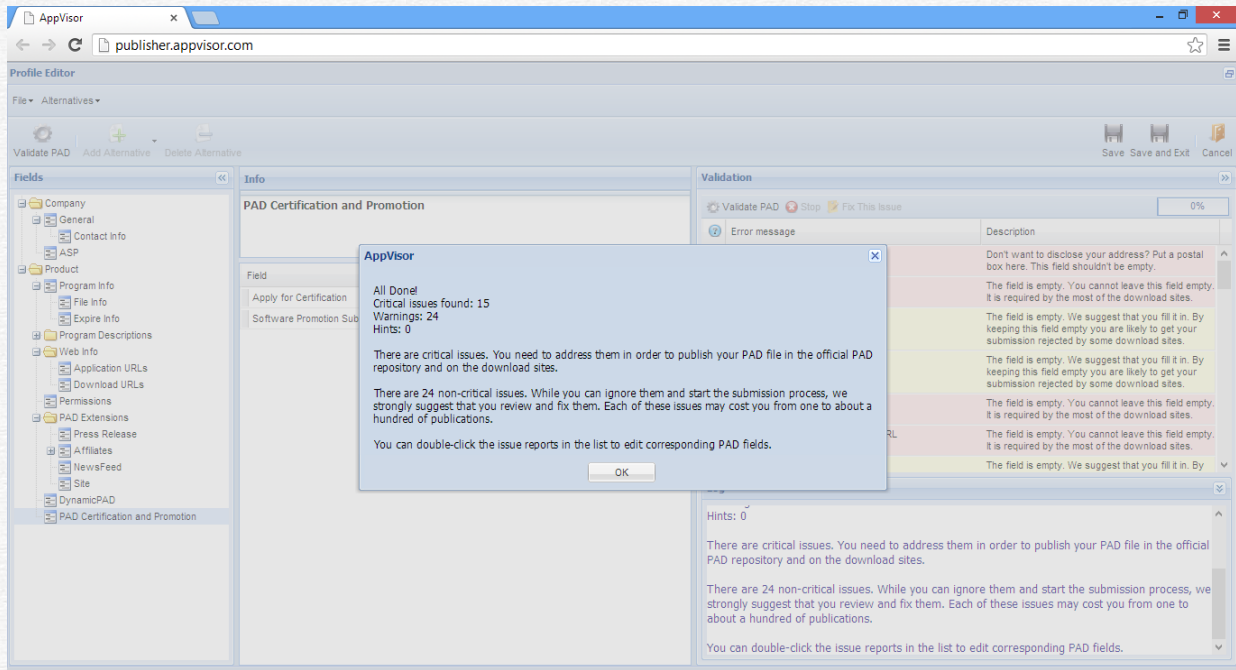


STEP 4: Enter all required data Under Company and Product TAGs.

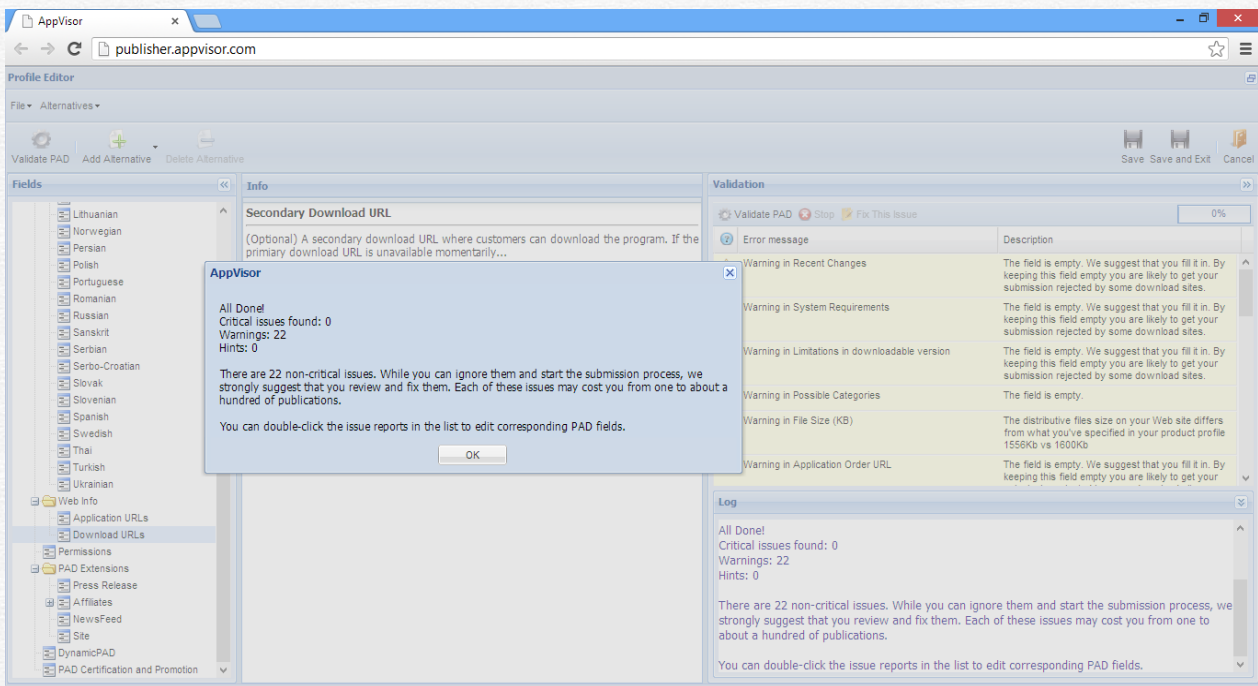


STEP 5: Once all information is filled, click on Validate PAD to validate your PAD file.

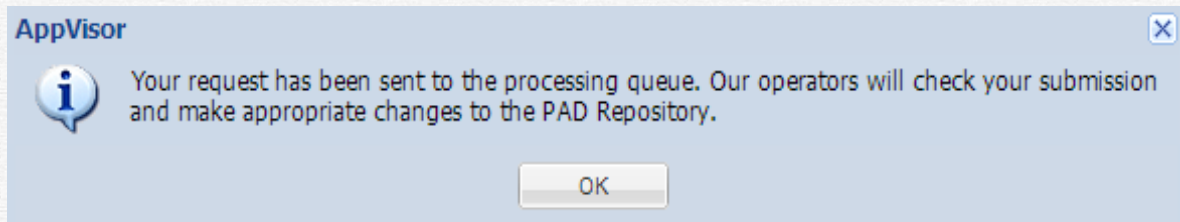
STEP 6: Fix all errors observed during the Validation process. If you encounter any problem, below error will be displayed.



STEP 7: Once all critical issues are resolved, you will get confirmation message to start the submission process.



STEP 8: You can navigate back to home page and then Click on Publish menu on top of the page to get your application published.



STEP 9: You can use export functionality to export PAD file for manual submission to software download websites.

This is cool, what else I can do with PAD file?

Most of the software products normally has got multiple releases/updates. The user can check product updates using, Newsletter or by checking for sites periodically.

Program itself can also prompt user to download the latest version. e.g. Adobe Acrobat Reader at start of program asks user to 'Check latest version', Or your application will have menu to 'Check for Upgrade'.

Below are steps for creating upgrade module within your application.

STEP 1: Identify PAD file URL on your website (DO NOT CHANGE THIS once setup is done). e.g. www.yourcompany.com/app.xml

STEP 2: To get latest version of product available on server, read xml file and tag "XML_DIZ_INFO/Program_Info/Program_Version".

STEP 3: Once we get latest version using Program_version TAG, we can compare with current version what user has. If version on server is higher then we can prompt user to download the latest version from server.

STEP 4: To get the latest path of application using path in PAD file "XML_DIZ_INFO/Web_Info/Download_URLs/Primary_Download_URL"

Are there any other tools available to work with PAD file?

If you are an author (Who want's to publish app) below are list of tools available in market.

[PADGen](#)

Download this application to create and edit PAD files on MS Windows, provided for free by the ASP.

[PAD Extensions Directory](#)

Download definition files for extensions on the default PAD dataset.

[PAD Digital Signature](#)

PAD digital signatures specification, tools and resources.

[PAD Validator](#)

Validate your PAD file online against the PAD Specification.

[PAD Repository](#)

Upload to the ASP PAD Repository used by webmasters to populate their archives.

[PAD Supporting Archives](#)

A maintained list of download sites supporting PAD.

[Links and 3rd Party Tools](#)

Links to PAD related services, 3rd party tools and resources.

[PAD Specification](#)

PAD standard definitions, PAD Signing specification, tools and resources.

You can write an email to us to receive free code explaining upgrade module.

**If you have any queries or suggestion please write to us @-
contactus@rachittechnology.com**