BigFix

Software Distribution for BigFix UI

Special notice

Before using this information and the product it supports, read the information in Notices *(on page I)*.

Edition notice

This edition applies to version 11.0 of BigFix and to all subsequent releases and modifications until otherwise indicated in new editions.

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Chapter 1. BigFix Software Distribution on the BigFix UI — Overview

BigFix Software Distribution (SWD) on the BigFix UI (BFUI) is a centralized, enterprise-grade solution for deploying and managing software across all endpoints in your network — providing full control and end-user self-service through a modernized web interface.

Note: The **Software** page will be visible only if the `Software Distribution` site is licensed and enabled.

BigFix Software Distribution is part of the **Lifecycle Management** suite. It provides a consolidated, comprehensive solution to quickly deploy software throughout a network from a single, centralized location, delivering cost-effective operational control and visibility into the software delivery and installation process.

The BigFix UI (BFUI) introduces a modernized approach to software distribution, replacing the legacy Software Distribution Dashboard available in the BigFix Console and the legacy BigFix WebUI. It introduces new first-class entities — **Package** and **Software** — that provide a cleaner, more scalable model for organizing and deploying software across the enterprise.

Key Capabilities

- Deploy software to endpoints across your network from a single, centralized location.
- Maintain full control into software delivery and installation status.
- Organize software into **Packages** (minimal deployable units) and group them under logical **Software** entities that span versions, platforms, and architectures.
- Allow device owners to request and self-manage software through the **Self Service Application (SSA)**, reducing IT workload.
- Leverage pre-built Fixlets from the **Software Installer Library** for Windows and macOS to accelerate common deployments.
- Configure the Self Service Application directly from the BFUI Administration section without leaving the browser.

Where Software Distribution Lives in BigFix UI

Software Distribution on BFUI is accessed via **Explore > Software** in the BigFix UI left navigation panel. The **Software Explorer** page is the central hub for all software management tasks. Access to packages and tasks is governed by the BFUI access control model, tied to BigFix Custom Site permissions.

What Is New in BigFix UI Compared to Legacy Tools

The BigFix UI introduces two new concepts that replace the flat task-based model of the legacy Console and WebUI:

Package

The minimal unit describing a software application. Contains all the installer files and BigFix Tasks required to install or uninstall the software. Equivalent in structure to a legacy SWD package, but managed entirely within the new BFUI.

Software

A logical grouping of one or more Packages representing different versions, flavors, architectures, or operating systems of the same application. A new concept with no direct legacy equivalent.

Important: Packages created in the legacy SWD Dashboard (Console or WebUI) are **not visible** in the new BFUI, and vice versa. Reusing legacy packages requires an explicit export-and-import migration. See Limitations *(on page 28)* for details.

Next Steps

Getting Started with Software Distribution *(on page 7)*

Key Concepts

Package *(on page 21)*

Software *(on page 23)*

Access Control *(on page 27)*

Limitations and Legacy Compatibility *(on page 28)*

How-To Tasks

Navigating the BigFix UI Software Explorer *(on page 30)*

Managing Software — Add and Delete *(on page 33)*

Configuring the Self Service Application *(on page 45)*

Chapter 2. Getting Started with BigFix Software Distribution on the BigFix UI

BigFix Software Distribution on the BigFix UI (BFUI) lets administrators deploy software to endpoints from a centralized browser interface — this section walks you through the three core steps: creating a Package, uploading the installer files, and deploying the task to target endpoints.

Software Distribution on the BigFix UI is built around three sequential activities that take you from zero to a deployed application on your endpoints. Whether you are deploying a new application for the first time or migrating from the legacy SWD Dashboard, the workflow is the same.

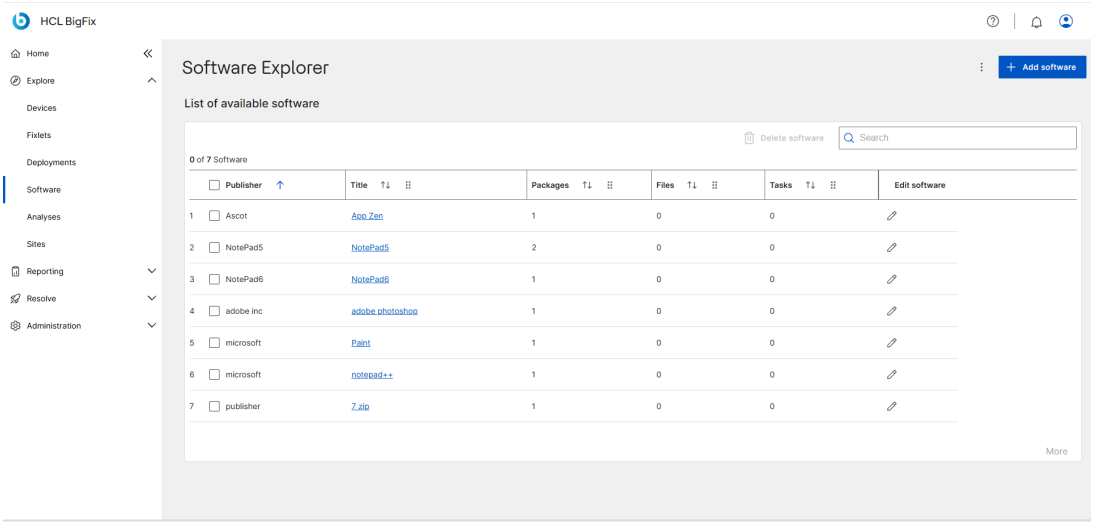
Prerequisites

Before you begin, confirm the following:

- You have a BigFix account with access to at least one Custom Site. Access to a Custom Site determines which packages and tasks you can see and manage. See Access Control *(on page 27)*.
- You must enable the Software Distribution site.
- The BigFix UI (BFUI) is installed and accessible from your browser.
- You have permission to create Tasks and manage Custom Sites in the BigFix Platform.
- If you have existing packages from the legacy SWD Dashboard or legacy BigFix WebUI, they must be exported from the legacy tool and re-imported into the new BFUI before use. Direct reuse is not supported. See Limitations and Legacy Compatibility *(on page 28)*.
- (Optional) Enable the **Software Installer Library for Windows** and/or **Software Installer Library for macOS** sites in your BigFix environment to access pre-built Fixlets for common software titles without building packages from scratch.

The Three-Step Workflow

Figure 1. BigFix UI Software Explorer — List of Available Software



The getting started workflow consists of three sequential steps, each covered by a dedicated task topic in this section:

Step 1 — Create a Package

A Package is the fundamental unit of software in BigFix Software Distribution. Creating a Package means defining the software metadata (title, publisher, version, operating system, architecture, category) and establishing the container that will hold the installer files and deployment tasks. The Package is what the BigFix UI uses to organize and track everything associated with a software application.

Step 2 — Add Files to the Package

Once a Package exists, you upload the installer binaries and any supporting files — transform files, configuration profiles, license files — to the BFUI File Server and associate them with the Package. These files become the payload that gets delivered to endpoints during deployment. Each file can be assigned a relative path that controls where it lands on the endpoint.

Step 3 — Deploy the Task to Endpoints

With files in place, you select a deployment task from the Package's task list (or use the **Deployments** tab) and push it to your target endpoints. BigFix evaluates the task's relevance expression against each endpoint and executes the installation command only where conditions are met. You can monitor deployment progress from the Deployments view.

Tip: If you only need to deploy common off-the-shelf software, check the **Pre-built Fixlets** list (available via the eye icon on the Software Explorer page) before building a custom Package. The Software Installer Library may already have a ready-to-deploy Fixlet for your application.

Where to Go Next

The task topics in this section walk through each step in detail. Follow them in sequence for your first deployment, or jump directly to whichever step applies to your current situation.

Background Reading

BigFix Software Distribution — Overview *(on page 5)*

Package — Understanding the Data Model *(on page 21)*

Software — Grouping Packages *(on page 23)*

Reference

Access Control *(on page 27)*

Limitations and Legacy Compatibility *(on page 28)*

Navigating the BigFix UI Software Explorer *(on page 30)*

Creating a Software Distribution Package in the BigFix UI

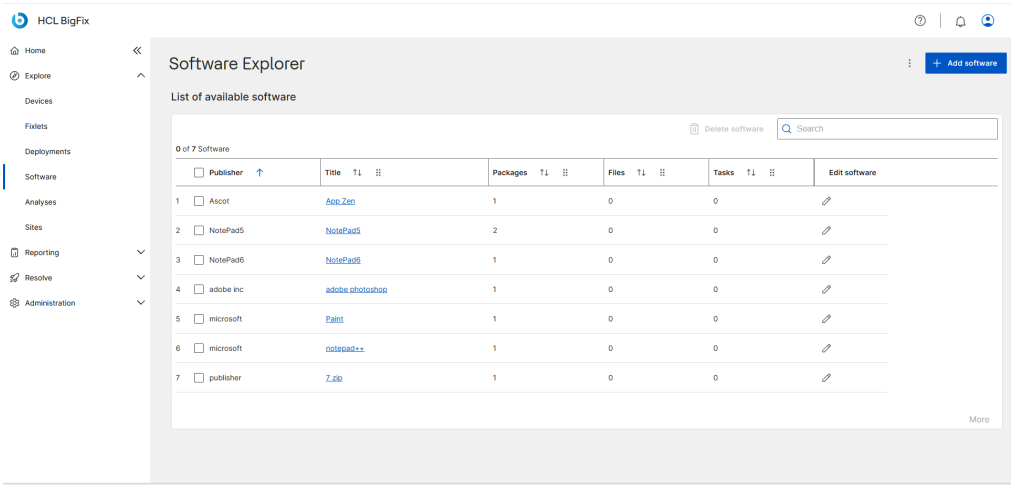
Create a Package in the BigFix UI Software Distribution to define the metadata for a software application — including its title, publisher, version, operating system, and architecture — establishing the container that will hold its installer files and deployment tasks.

You must enable the Software Distribution site. Also, you must have access to at least one BigFix Custom Site and the permission to create Tasks within it. If you are migrating a package from the legacy BigFix Console or WebUI, export it from the legacy tool first and use the Import path in Step 2 below instead. See Limitations and Legacy Compatibility *(on page 28)*.

A Package is the foundational entity in BigFix Software Distribution. Before you can upload installer files or create deployment tasks, a Package must exist to hold them. Creating a Package in the BigFix UI automatically creates a corresponding Software entry that groups this Package with any future versions or platform variants of the same application.

1. Navigate to **Explore > Software** in the BigFix UI left navigation panel.

Figure 2. BigFix UI Software Explorer page — List of Available Software



   The **Software Explorer** page opens, showing all Software entries accessible to your account.
2. Click **+ Add software** in the top-right corner of the page. The **Add software** page opens.
3. As step 1, under **Create Software**, fill the following fields:

Figure 3. Add Software Wizard — Step 1: Create Software Fields

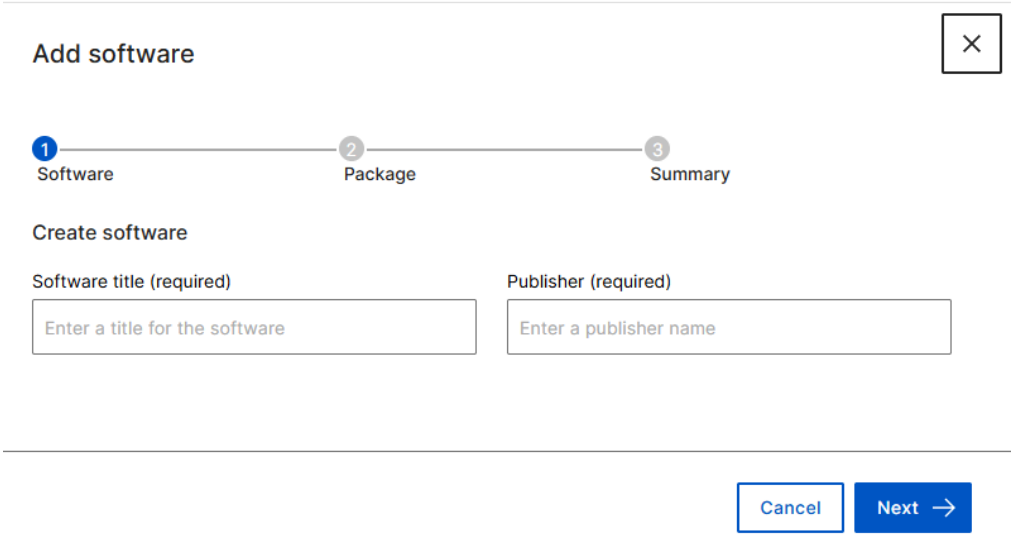


Table 1. Create software — Fields

Field	Description	Example
Software Title (required)	The name of the application.	`NewsPaperCreator`
Publisher (required)	The vendor or publisher of the application.	`PrintingInc`

Click **Next →**. The **Package** page opens.

4. As step 2, under **Create package**, fill the following details:

Figure 4. Add Software Wizard — Step 2: Package Site Selection Option

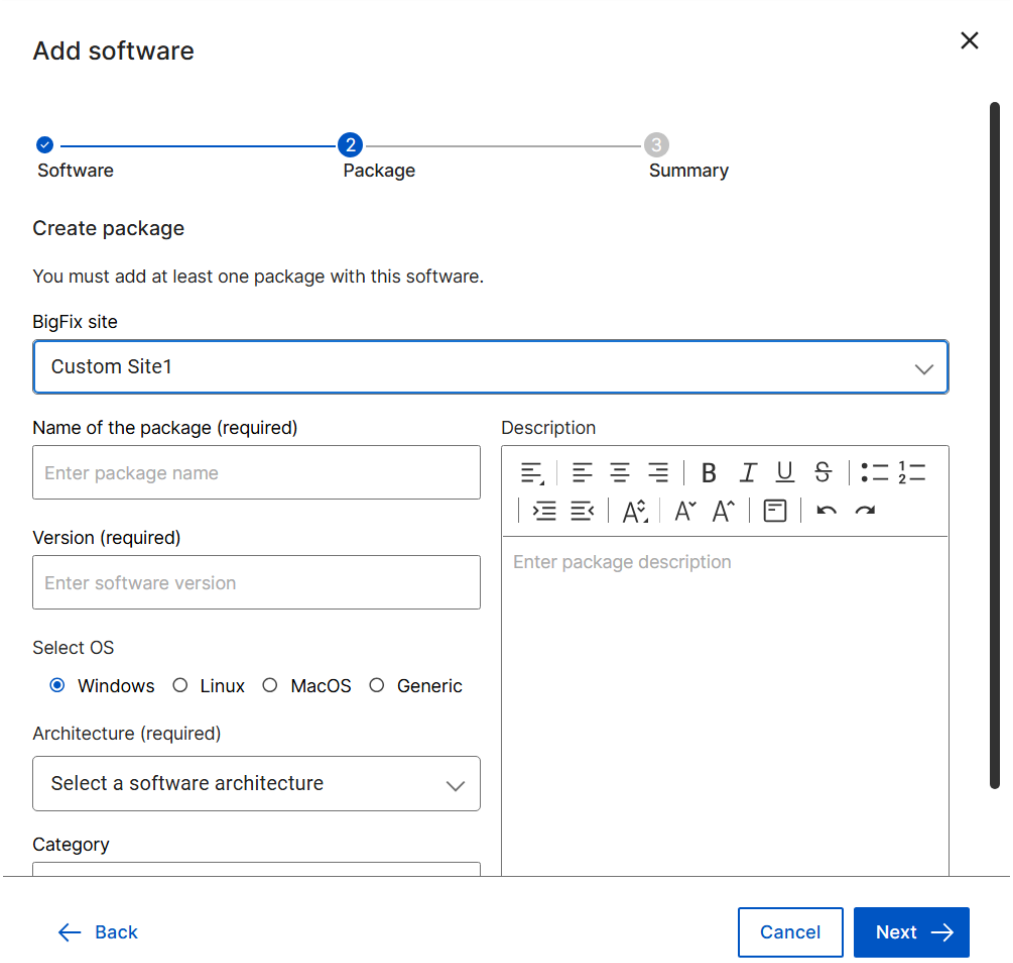


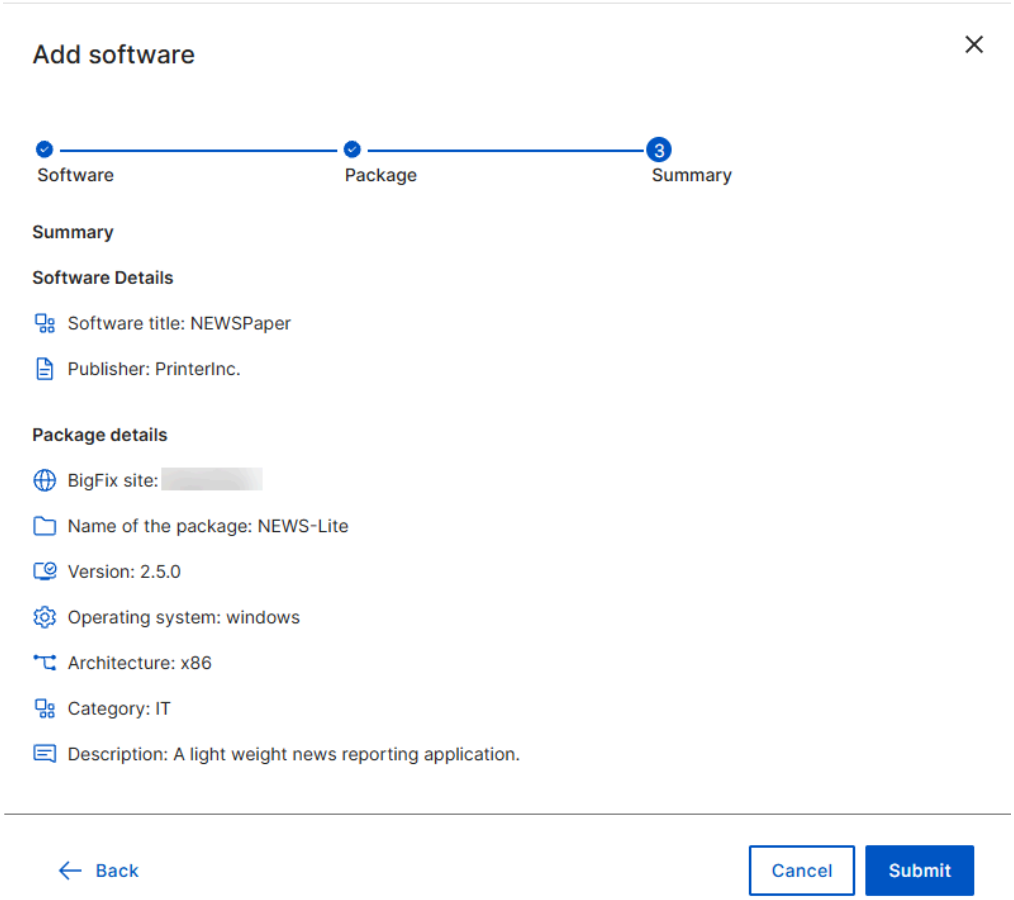
Table 2. Package Metadata Fields

Field	Description	Example
BigFix site	Select the name of the BigFix site where this package will be published.	`ACME_IT_Support`
Name of the package (required)	A human-readable display label for this specific package variant.	`NewsPaperCreator package`
Version (required)	The version number of the software.	`2.4`
OS	The target operating system for this package.	`Windows`
Architecture (required)	The target processor architecture.	`x64`
Category	The functional category of the software.	`Content Creation`
Description	A brief description of the software and its purpose.	`A modern desktop publishing suite.`

Click **Next →**. The **Summary** page opens.

5. Review your selections on the **Summary** page. This summary includes **Software Details** and **Package Details**.

Figure 5. Add Software Wizard — Summary Page Before Submission

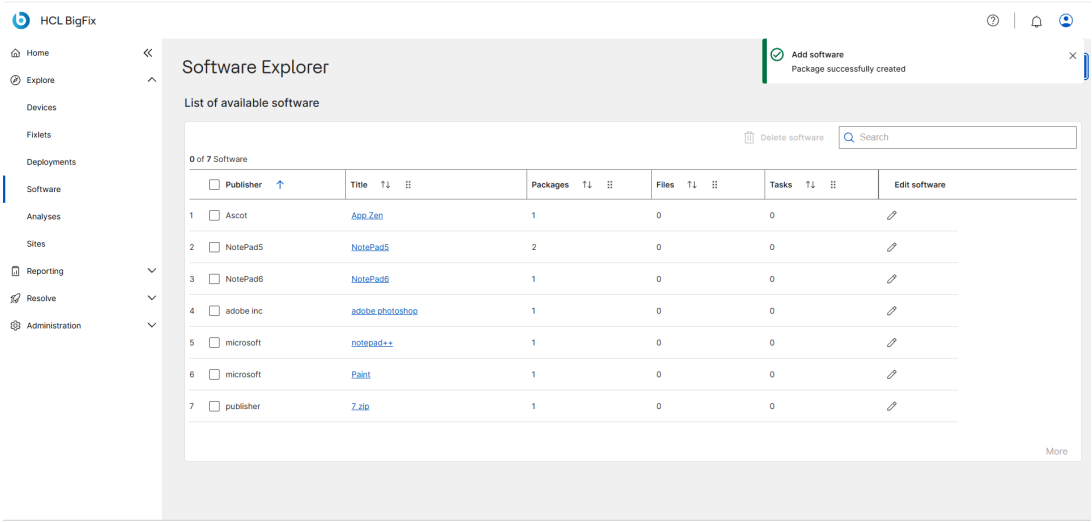


To make changes click **← Back** else click **Submit**.

6. Save the Package to create it in the BigFix Platform.

The Package is created and appears under the new Software entry in the Software Explorer. The Package details view is now open and ready for the next step — uploading installer files. BigFix creates the Package as a non-deployable task in the platform (named `SWD_Package_xxxxxxxxxx`) and opens the **Software Details** page for the new Software entry.

Figure 6. Software Details Page — Package Successfully Created



Proceed to upload the installer and supporting files for this Package. See Step 2 — Add Files to the Package *(on page 13)*.

Next Step

Step 2 — Add Files to the Package *(on page 13)*

Related Concepts

Package — Understanding the Data Model *(on page 21)*

Software — Grouping Packages *(on page 23)*

Limitations and Legacy Compatibility *(on page 28)*

Adding Files to a BigFix Software Distribution Package

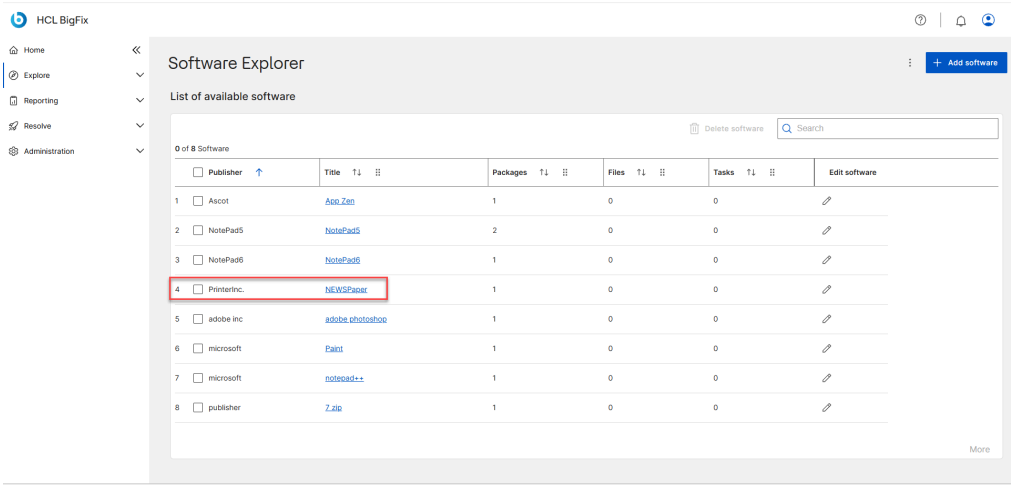
Upload installer binaries, configuration files, and supporting resources to the BFUI File Server to make them available for deployment tasks within a BigFix Software Distribution Package.

A Software entry and at least one Package must already exist before you can add files. See Adding and Deleting Software *(on page 33)* if you have not yet created a Software entry.

Files uploaded here are stored in the **BFUI File Server** and associated with the Package. They become selectable when creating deployment tasks. Upload all files the software lifecycle may need — installers, silent transform files, configuration profiles, license files, and supporting binaries — before creating tasks that reference them.

1. Navigate to **Explore > Software**.
2. Open the target Software entry by clicking the software title listed under **List of available software** from the **Software Explorer** page.

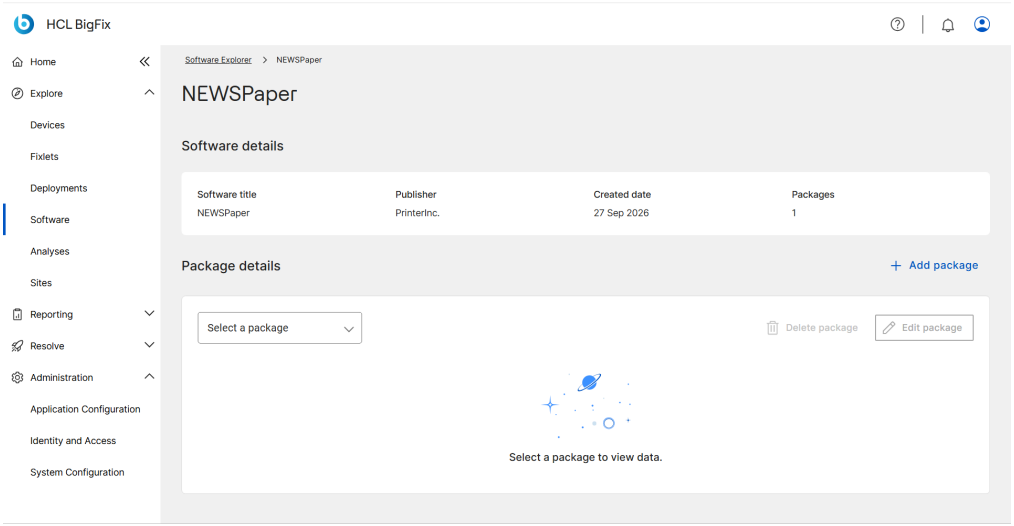
Figure 7. Software Explorer — Selecting a Software Entry



The **Software Details** page opens.

3. On the **Software Details** page, to view the package details, select the required package from the drop down.

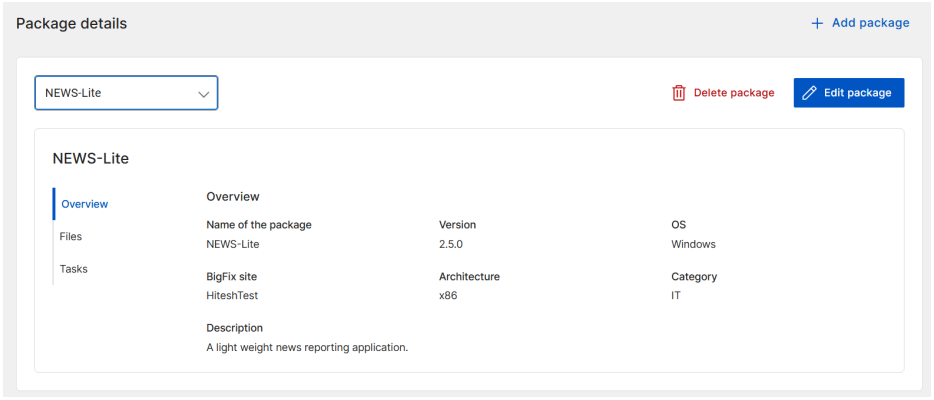
Figure 8. Software Details Page — Package Selector Drop-Down



4. The **Package details** section, lists a package's details under the 3 following heads:

- **Overview**: Displays an overview of the selected package. You can also edit or delete the package from here.

Figure 9. Package Details — Overview Tab

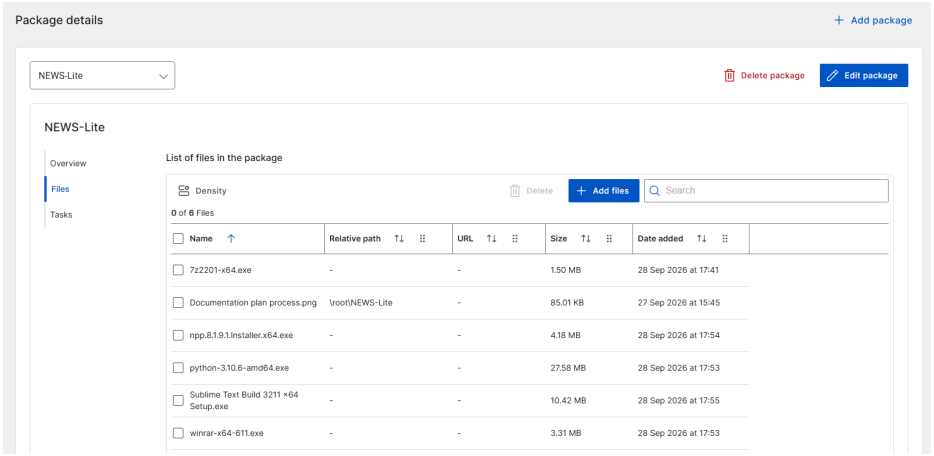


- **Files**: Add files to the package.

Tip: The list of supported file extensions for the automatic command creation is as follows:

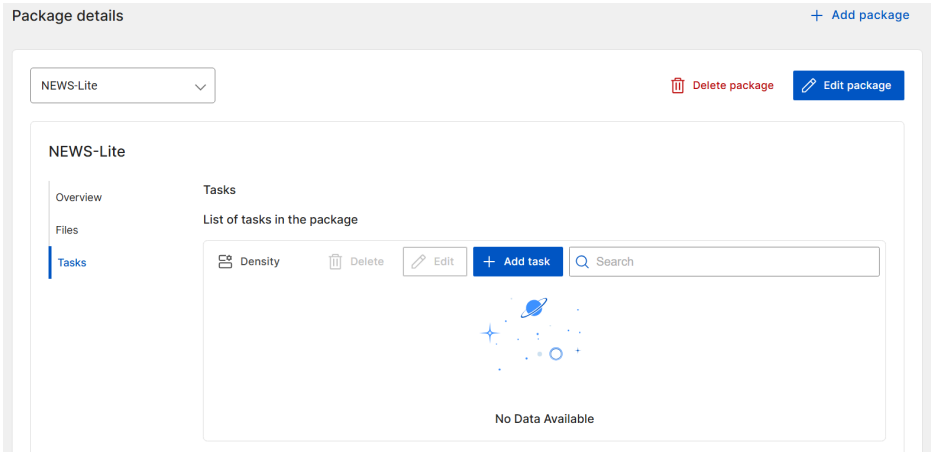
- `DMG`
- `MSI`
- `PKG`
- `RPM`

Figure 10. Package Details — Files Tab



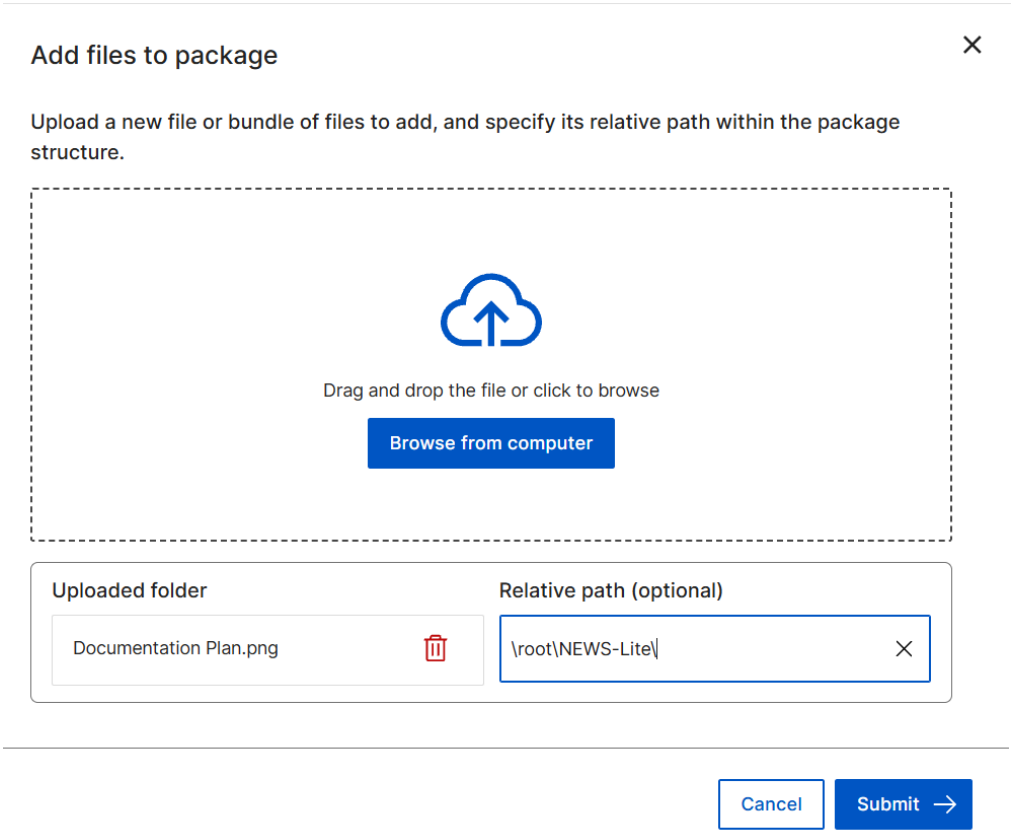
- **Tasks**: Add tasks to the package.

Figure 11. Package Details — Tasks Tab



5. To add files to the package, click **+ Add files**. The **Add files to package** page opens.

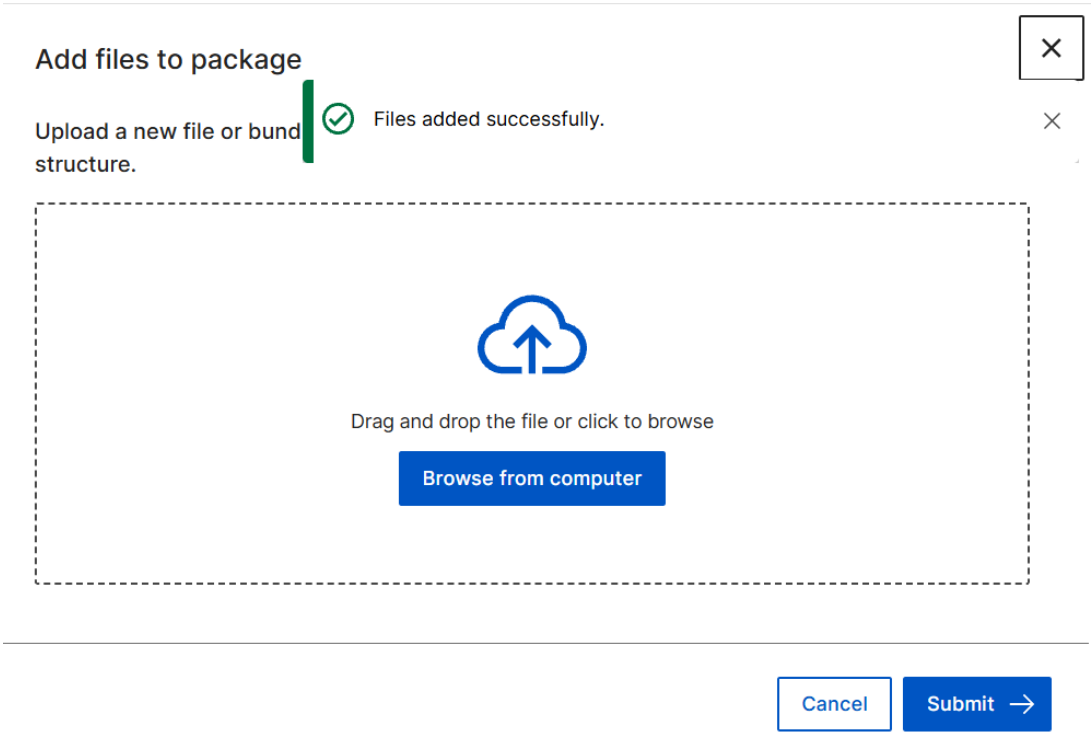
Figure 12. Add Files to Package — Upload File



Upload a new file or a bundle of files to add, and specify its relative path within the package structure.

6. Click **Submit →**.

Figure 13. Package Files Tab — Uploaded Files Listed



Note:

- Examples of files typically uploaded for a package:
  - Installer binaries — `setup.exe`, `NewsPaperCreator.msi`
  - Silent transform files — `NPC.mst`
  - Configuration profiles — `BasicProfile.bin`, `AdvancedProfile.bin`
  - Supporting resources — `resource.cfg`, `license.txt`
- For each uploaded file, define the **Relative Path** — the folder path where the file will be placed on the endpoint during task execution.
- If no relative path is specified, the file is placed in the task's working directory on the endpoint. Use relative paths to recreate a specific folder structure required by the installer.

The uploaded files are stored in the BFUI File Server and listed under the Package's **Files** tab. They are now selectable when creating or editing deployment tasks for this Package.

After uploading files, create the deployment tasks that reference them. See Creating a Deployment Task *(on page 40)*.

Next Step

Creating a Deployment Task *(on page 40)*

Related Topics

Adding and Deleting Software *(on page 33)*

Package — Understanding the Data Model *(on page 21)*

Navigating the BigFix UI Software Explorer *(on page 30)*

Deploying a Software Distribution Task to Endpoints

Deploy a deployment task from a BigFix Software Distribution Package to target endpoints using the task list in the Package details view — BigFix evaluates the task's relevance on each endpoint and executes the installation command only where conditions are met.

Before deploying, ensure the following are in place:

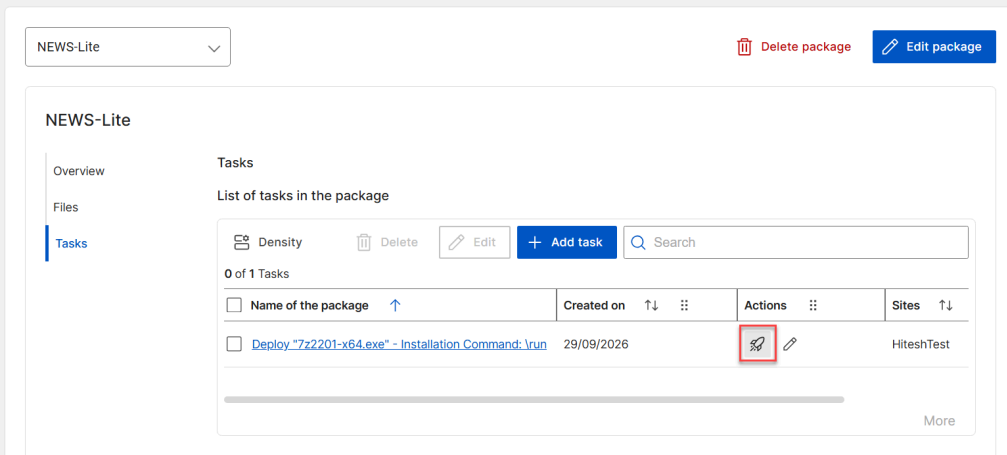
- A Package exists with at least one deployment task. See Step 1 — Create a Package *(on page 9)* and Step 2 — Add Files to the Package *(on page 13)*.
- If you created the task using the Add Task wizard, confirm that its relevance expression is correct for your target endpoints. See Creating a Deployment Task *(on page 18)*.
- Target endpoints are enrolled in BigFix and reporting to the BigFix server.

BigFix Software Distribution provides two entry points for deploying a task to endpoints — directly from the task list within the **Package Details** view. Both paths initiate the same underlying BigFix deployment action.

BigFix evaluates the task's relevance expression against each target endpoint before executing. The installation command runs only on endpoints where the relevance condition is satisfied — ensuring the software is not deployed to endpoints that already have it installed or that do not meet the prerequisites.

1. Navigate to **Explore > Software** and open the target Software entry.
2. **From the Package task list** — on the **Software Details** page, expand the Package, open the **Tasks** sub-list, and select the task you want to deploy. Click the rocket icon (**Deploy**) next to the task name.

Figure 14. Package Details — Tasks Tab: Deploying from the Task List



3. The **Deploy** wizard opens. This wizard has the following six steps:

    a. **Fixlets**: Filter and select the Fixlets to remediate.

    b. **Actions**: Click the Fixlet set to review/update.

    c. **Devices**: Filter the devices in this step. You can filter by **Query**, **Device group**, and **Device list**. You can also do the following:
        - **Static device filtering**: Static filters define a specific set of devices to target for this deployment.
        - **Dynamic device filtering**: Dynamic filters define a matching criteria for devices to evaluate continuously until the deployment ends. Any device that matches this filter after the deployment has been created, will have this deployment applied.

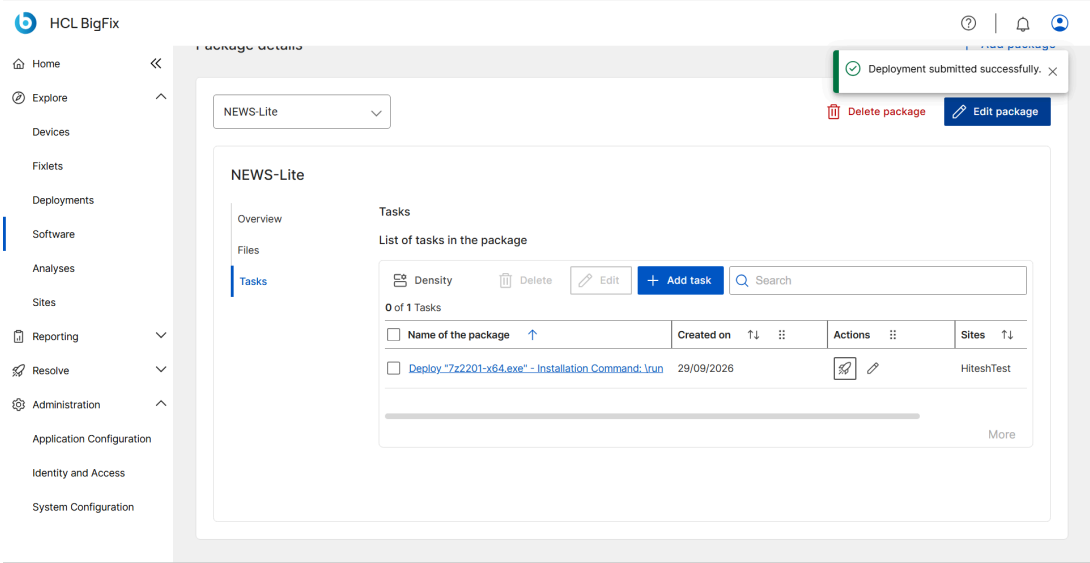
    d. **Behaviour**: Enable or disable the following options from this step:
        - **Offer to user**: Deploying with a BigFix *Offer* allows end-users to choose and install software, patches, and other actions themselves through a self-service application, rather than having them automatically deployed by an administrator.
        - **Order of events**: This option has the following sub-options for configuring:
            - **Start downloading immediately**
            - **Before running message**
            - **While running message**
            - **Post deployment behaviour**
            - **On failure, retry**
            - **Reapply whenever it becomes relevant again**

e. **Schedule**: Configure scheduling options like time zone, start and end date, and device schedule options.

f. **Summary**: Review all your deployment configuration selections before deploying.

4. Click **Deploy**.

Figure 15. Deployment Submitted — Success Confirmation



The deployment action is sent to the BigFix server and propagated to the BigFix agents on the target endpoints. Each agent evaluates the task's relevance expression. On endpoints where the relevance condition is met, the agent downloads the required files from the BFUI File Server and executes the installation command.

To make the software available for end users to request themselves without administrator intervention, configure the Self Service Application. See Configuring the Self Service Application *(on page 45)*.

Previous Steps

Step 1 — Create a Package *(on page 9)*

Step 2 — Add Files to the Package *(on page 13)*

Creating a Deployment Task *(on page 18)*

After Deployment

Configuring the Self Service Application *(on page 45)*

Navigating the BigFix UI Software Explorer *(on page 30)*

Chapter 3. Key Concepts in BigFix Software Distribution

BigFix Software Distribution on the BigFix UI introduces several foundational concepts — Package, Software, access control, and legacy compatibility — that define how software is organized, secured, and deployed across your endpoint estate.

Understanding the following concepts is essential before working with BigFix Software Distribution on the BigFix UI. These concepts describe the data model, security model, and compatibility boundaries that govern how software is created, managed, and deployed.

Package ***(on page 21)***

The minimal deployable unit. A Package contains all files and BigFix Tasks needed to install, configure, or remove a specific piece of software on endpoints. Each Package carries metadata such as the software title, publisher, version, OS, and architecture.

Software ***(on page 23)***

A logical grouping of one or more Packages under a single software title. Software is a BigFix UI concept with no physical equivalent in the BigFix Platform — it groups Packages that represent different versions, editions, operating systems, or architectures of the same application.

Access Control ***(on page 27)***

Access to Packages and Tasks is governed entirely by BigFix Custom Site permissions. A user with access to a Custom Site can see and manage all Packages and Tasks stored within it. There is no additional SWD-specific permission layer.

Limitations and Legacy Compatibility ***(on page 28)***

Packages created in the legacy SWD Dashboard or legacy BigFix WebUI are not visible in the new BigFix UI. Migration requires an explicit export-and-import process. The reverse — importing new BFUI packages into legacy tools — is not supported.

Start Here

BigFix Software Distribution — Overview *(on page 5)*

Getting Started *(on page 7)*

Put Concepts into Practice

Using Software Distribution *(on page 30)*

Understanding the BigFix Software Distribution Package

A Package is the fundamental unit of software in BigFix Software Distribution on the BigFix UI — an entity that bundles all installer files and BigFix Tasks needed to deploy, configure, or remove a specific software application on target endpoints.

The Package concept in the BigFix UI is analogous to how packages were defined in the legacy BigFix Console, but is now managed as a first-class entity within the new BFUI. A Package bundles the installer and supporting files together with the BigFix Tasks needed to deploy or remove the software, giving administrators a self-contained unit to manage and reuse.

Package Attributes

Each Package stores the following metadata and content:

Software Title

The name of the software application. Example: `NewsPaperCreator`.

Software Publisher

The publisher or vendor of the software. Example: `PrintingInc`.

Package Name

A human-readable display name used as a visual reference in the UI. Example: `NewsPaperCreator package`.

Version

The version of the software. Example: `2.4`.

OS

The target operating system. Example: `Windows`.

Architecture

The target processor architecture. Example: `x64`.

Category

The functional category of the software. Example: `Content Creation`.

Description

A brief description of the software and its purpose.

List of Files

Installer and supporting files stored in the BFUI File Server and associated with this package. Example: `NewsPaperCreator.msi`, `NPC.mst`.

List of Tasks

The BigFix Tasks that deploy, configure, or remove the software on endpoints. Example: `Install NewsPaperCreator v2.4`.

How a Package Appears in the BigFix Platform

Internally, a Package is stored in the BigFix Platform as a standard Task object. However, it is deliberately configured to be **non-deployable** — its relevance expression always evaluates to `false`, so it never becomes relevant on any endpoint and cannot be accidentally deployed.

The underlying Package Task uses an intentionally anonymous, non-human-readable naming format:

```
SWD_Package_xxxxxxxxxxxx
```

This format ensures the Package Task can be visually distinguished from actual deployment tasks in both the legacy BigFix Console Fixlet list and the BFUI Fixlet list, where it appears alongside the install and uninstall tasks created within that Package.

CAUTION: Do **not** attempt to execute or deploy a task named `SWD_Package_xxxxxxxxxxxx`. It is a metadata container object, not a deployment action. Use the named install, remove, or upgrade tasks created within the Package to deploy software to endpoints.

Related Concepts

Software — Grouping Packages by Application *(on page 23)*

BigFix Software Distribution — Overview *(on page 5)*

Working with Packages

Managing Packages — Adding Files *(on page 13)*

Managing Software — Add and Delete *(on page 33)*

Limitations and Legacy Package Compatibility *(on page 28)*

Understanding the BigFix Software Distribution Software Entity

In the BigFix UI, a Software entity is a logical, version-agnostic grouping of one or more Packages that represent different versions, flavors, architectures, or operating systems of the same application — providing a unified view of all deployment options for a given software title.

The **Software** entity is a concept introduced in the BigFix UI that has no direct equivalent in the legacy BigFix Console or WebUI. It acts as a higher-level organizational container above the Package, allowing administrators to manage multiple deployment variants of the same application from a single location.

A single Software entry can contain multiple Packages to accommodate:

- Different **versions** of the same application — for example, version 2.3 and version 2.4 of the same product.
- Different **editions or flavors** — for example, Standard and Enterprise editions.
- Different **operating systems** — for example, a Windows package and a macOS package for the same application title.
- Different **processor architectures** — for example, x64 and ARM builds.

Software as a Virtual Container

Unlike a Package, there is **no discrete platform object** in the BigFix Platform that represents a Software entity. Software exists exclusively as a conceptual grouping within the BigFix UI. The attributes and characteristics of a Software entry are entirely defined by the Packages it contains.

Warning: Deleting a Software entry is a **cascade operation**. It permanently deletes all Packages contained within it, including all associated Files and Tasks. This action cannot be undone. Use the Delete Software *(on page 33)* action with care.

Software-to-Package Relationship Example

The following example illustrates how a single Software entry can span multiple Packages:

- **Software:** `NewsPaperCreator`
  - Package: `NewsPaperCreator v2.3 – Windows x64`
  - Package: `NewsPaperCreator v2.4 – Windows x64`
  - Package: `NewsPaperCreator v2.4 – macOS`

Each Package is independent and contains its own set of Files and Tasks. Administrators can deploy any individual Package from within the shared Software entry.

Related Concepts

Package — The Minimal Deployable Unit *(on page 21)*

BigFix Software Distribution — Overview *(on page 5)*

Working with Software and Packages

Managing Software — Add and Delete *(on page 33)*

Managing Packages — Adding Files and Tasks *(on page 34)*

Navigating the BigFix UI Software Explorer *(on page 30)*

BFUI File Server

The BFUI File Server is the binary storage and distribution component of BigFix Software Distribution — it stores installer files uploaded to Packages and serves them to BigFix agents on target endpoints during deployment.

What is the BFUI File Server?

The BFUI File Server is a dedicated storage and file-serving component that operates alongside the BigFix UI. It is architecturally separate from the BigFix Platform (the server that manages Fixlets, Tasks, and Actions) and handles all binary content — installer executables, scripts, patches, and supporting files — that are associated with Software Distribution Packages.

All the files added to a Package are stored in the File Server.

This separation ensures that large binary files do not pass through the BigFix relay hierarchy in the same way as action content, and that file storage can scale independently of the core BigFix infrastructure.

Roles in the Software Distribution Workflow

The BFUI File Server participates in three distinct points of the Software Distribution workflow:

Upload target for Package files

When an administrator adds files to a Package using the **Add Files** wizard in the BigFix UI, those files are uploaded directly to the BFUI File Server. The file references stored in the Package point to the File Server location, not to a local or network path. This means the files must be successfully uploaded before a deployment task can reference and distribute them. See Adding Files to a Package *(on page 13)*.

Download source during endpoint deployment

When a deployment action runs, the BigFix agent on each target endpoint evaluates the task's relevance expression. If the condition is satisfied, the agent retrieves the required installer files from the BFUI File Server and executes the installation command locally. The BigFix Platform coordinates the action, but the actual file transfer happens between the agent and the BFUI File Server. See Deploying a Software Distribution Task to Endpoints *(on page 18)*.

Import destination for legacy packages

When a Package previously exported from the legacy BigFix Console or WebUI is imported into the BigFix UI, all binary files from that package are re-uploaded to the BFUI File Server. New deployment Tasks are simultaneously created in the BigFix Platform to replace the legacy Fixlets. This makes the BFUI File Server the canonical store for all Software Distribution binaries regardless of origin. See Adding and Deleting Software *(on page 33)* and Limitations and Legacy Package Compatibility *(on page 28)*.

Operational Dependency

The BFUI File Server is a required dependency for all Software Distribution operations that involve files. If the File Server is unavailable:

- File uploads during Package creation will fail.
- Endpoint agents will be unable to download installer files, causing deployments to stall or fail even if the BigFix Platform and relay infrastructure are healthy.
- Legacy package imports will not complete.

Administrators should ensure the BFUI File Server is reachable from both the administrator workstation (for uploads) and from all target endpoints or their relay servers (for downloads) before initiating Software Distribution workflows.

Relationship to Other Components

The following table summarizes how the BFUI File Server relates to the other core components in a Software Distribution deployment:

Table 3. BFUI File Server — Component Relationships

Component	Role	Interaction with BFUI File Server
BigFix UI (BFUI)	Administrator interface for managing Software, Packages, and Tasks	Sends file upload requests to the File Server when files are added to Packages
BigFix Platform	Manages and distributes Fixlets, Tasks, and Actions to agents	Stores task metadata and action scripts; does not store binary files — those remain on the File Server
BigFix Agent (endpoint)	Executes actions and reports results to the BigFix server	Downloads installer binaries directly from the File Server when a deployment action is triggered and relevance is met
Self Service Application (SSA)	End-user interface for browsing and requesting software offers	Does not interact with the File Server directly — the underlying BigFix agent handles file retrieval after the user initiates an offer

Limitation / workaround for configuring BFUI File Server

Tip: The maximum file size allowed for uploading to a Package is configurable. To change the limit, update the `MaxUploadSizeBytes` property under `FileServerConfigs` in the `AppConfig.yml` file, then restart the BFUI service for the change to take effect. The default value is `5368709120` bytes (5 GB).

Together with `MaxUploadSizeBytes`, you have to set also the following parameters to avoid the timeout when uploading big files:

```
Configs:
MicroServiceReadTimeoutSeconds: 1800
MicroServiceWriteTimeoutSeconds: 1800
MicroServiceIdleTimeoutSeconds: 1800
RproxyReadTimeoutSeconds: 1800
RproxyWriteTimeoutSeconds: 1800
RproxyIdleTimeoutSeconds: 1800
```

The BFUI must be configured to allow the download of files from the BF Server during a deployment. To do that you have to allow the connection between BFUI FileServer and the BF Server configuring this BFUI config file:

1. Configure the file `C:\<bfui_installdir>\data\configs\AppConfig.yaml`.
2. Add the *<BigFix Server IP>* address in the section **FileServerConfigs > IPACL** of the configuration file.

Restriction: File names must not contain any of the following special characters: `! " # $ % & ' * , / : ; < = > ? @ [\ ] ^ { | } ~ ``. This restriction applies to both file uploads and package imports.

Workflows That Use the BFUI File Server

Adding Files to a Package *(on page 13)*

Deploying a Software Distribution Task to Endpoints *(on page 18)*

Adding and Deleting Software (including Legacy Import) *(on page 33)*

Related Concepts

Package *(on page 21)*

Software *(on page 23)*

Limitations and Legacy Package Compatibility *(on page 28)*

Access Control for BigFix Software Distribution on the BigFix UI

Access to Software Distribution packages and tasks in the BigFix UI is governed by the BigFix Custom Site permission model — users who have access to a Custom Site automatically have access to all Packages and Tasks stored within that site, with no additional SWD-specific permission layer.

The access control model for Software Distribution on the BigFix UI (BFUI) is fully aligned with the standard BFUI permission model. It is based on **BigFix Custom Site access** — there is no separate, SWD-specific permission layer on top of this.

How Access Is Determined

A logged-in user who has been granted access to a Custom Site will automatically have access to **all Tasks and Packages** stored within that site. This applies uniformly — there is no mechanism to restrict access to individual Packages or Tasks within a site independently of site access.

Specifically:

- If a user **can** access a Custom Site, they can view, manage, and deploy all SWD Packages and Tasks in that site.
- If a user **cannot** access a Custom Site, they cannot see any SWD Packages or Tasks stored there — those entries are invisible to them in the Software Explorer.

Controlling Access Through Custom Sites

To restrict which users can interact with specific packages, organize your packages into separate Custom Sites aligned with your access control requirements, then manage site membership at the BigFix Platform level.

For example:

- Store packages intended for IT operations in one Custom Site and grant access to the IT Operators role.
- Store packages for the security team in a separate Custom Site with a different access group.

Tip: Work with your BigFix Platform administrator to design a Custom Site structure that aligns with your organization's access control and separation-of-duties requirements.

Related Topics

BigFix Software Distribution — Overview *(on page 5)*

Limitations and Legacy Package Compatibility *(on page 28)*

Managing Software — Add and Delete *(on page 33)*

BigFix Software Distribution Limitations and Legacy Compatibility

Packages created in the legacy BigFix SWD Dashboard (Console) or legacy BigFix WebUI are not visible in the new BigFix UI, and packages created in the new BigFix UI cannot be imported back into legacy tools — migration is one-directional and requires an explicit export-and-import process.

Legacy Package Visibility

Note: The Package export feature is not available in the new BFUI.

Packages created using the following legacy tools are **not visible** in the new BigFix UI and cannot be used or managed from it:

- The legacy **SWD Dashboard** in the BigFix Console.
- The legacy **SWD application** in the BigFix WebUI.

Conversely, packages created in the new BigFix UI are not visible in the legacy Console or WebUI. The two environments maintain completely separate package stores.

Migrating Packages from Legacy Tools to the New BigFix UI

Note: For security reasons the import of packages cannot accept zip files. The user must unzip the folder containing the package and import the row folder. Be careful that it is possible to export from the BF Console multiple packages at the same time, in this case a single zip file is created, it contains multiple zip files for each exported package. If you want to import these multiple packages you have to unzip all of them one by one before loading them in the interface.

To reuse a package previously created in the legacy Console or WebUI within the new BigFix UI, you must perform an explicit migration using the following steps:

1. **Export** the package from the legacy BigFix Console or legacy BigFix WebUI using its export function.
2. **Import** the exported package file into the new BigFix UI via the **More** options icon → **Import** on the Software Explorer page.

During the import process, the new BigFix UI recreates all content from the legacy package:

- **Tasks** — new Tasks are created in the BigFix Platform for each task in the imported package.
- **Files** — all files from the imported package are uploaded to and stored in the new BFUI File Server.

Migration Direction Restriction

Restriction: Migration is **one-directional only**. It is **not possible** to import into a legacy BigFix Console or legacy WebUI a package that was exported from the new BigFix UI. If you need to share a package with a team still using legacy tools, that package must be recreated natively in those legacy tools.

Additional Limitations and Operational Notes

Note: Adding or removing files or packages may take a moment. Please do not close or move out of the page until the process is complete.

Related Topics

BigFix Software Distribution — Overview *(on page 5)*

Managing Software — Add and Delete (including Import) *(on page 33)*

Access Control *(on page 27)*

Getting Started with Software Distribution *(on page 7)*

Chapter 4. Using BigFix Software Distribution

This section covers the day-to-day administrative tasks for BigFix Software Distribution on the BigFix UI — navigating the Software Explorer, adding and deleting software, managing package files and deployment tasks, and configuring the Self Service Application for end users.

Once you are familiar with the key concepts *(on page 21)*, the topics in this section guide you through the full range of day-to-day Software Distribution tasks available in the BigFix UI.

Navigating the BigFix UI Software Explorer *(on page 30)*

Learn how to access the Software Explorer, read the software list, drill into Software Details, and use Pre-built Fixlets from the Software Installer Library for Windows and macOS.

Adding and Deleting Software *(on page 33)*

Create a new Software entry from scratch or by importing a legacy package file. Delete Software entries and cascade-remove all associated Packages, Files, and Tasks.

Managing Packages *(on page 34)*

Upload installer and supporting files to the BFUI File Server and create deployment tasks — install, uninstall, repair, upgrade, and configuration tasks — with full control over commands, advanced options, and Self Service Application integration.

Configuring the Self Service Application *(on page 45)*

Use the Configure SSA wizard to generate a BigFix Task that installs and configures the Self Service Application on endpoints, letting device owners browse and request software themselves.

Before You Begin

Key Concepts *(on page 21)*

Getting Started *(on page 7)*

Navigating the BigFix UI Software Explorer

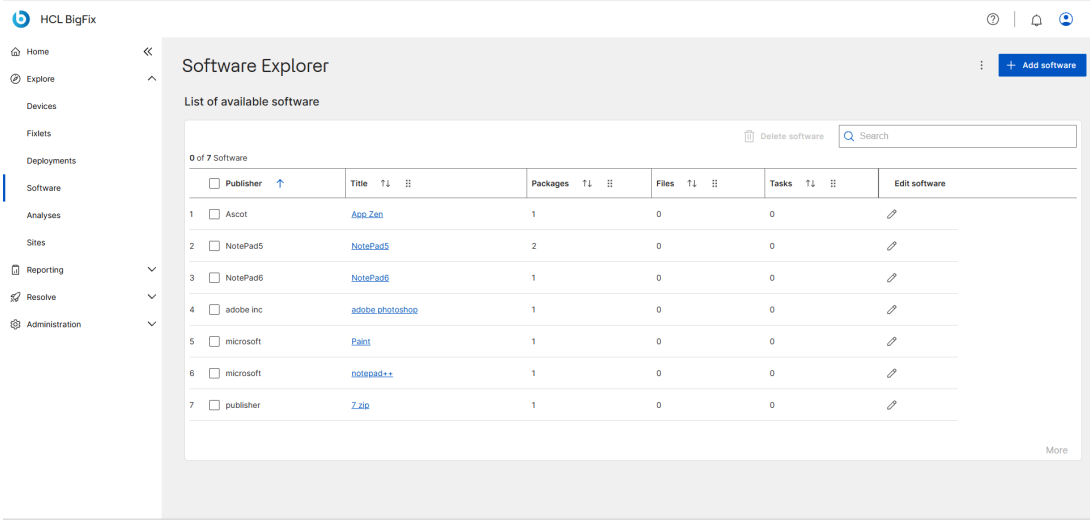
The Software Explorer page is the central hub for all Software Distribution activity in the BigFix UI — from here you can browse software, manage packages, view pre-built Fixlets, and initiate deployments, all from a single page accessible under Explore > Software.

The BigFix UI provides a dedicated navigation path for Software Distribution. All software management tasks originate from the **Software Explorer** page — the single browser-based interface for viewing, adding, editing, and deploying software across your endpoint estate.

Accessing the Software Explorer

To open the Software Distribution area, navigate to **Explore > Software** in the left navigation panel of the BigFix UI.

Figure 16. BigFix UI Software Explorer — List of Available Software



The **Software Explorer** page displays a list of all Software entries accessible to the current user (based on Custom Site permissions). The list includes the following columns for each Software entry:

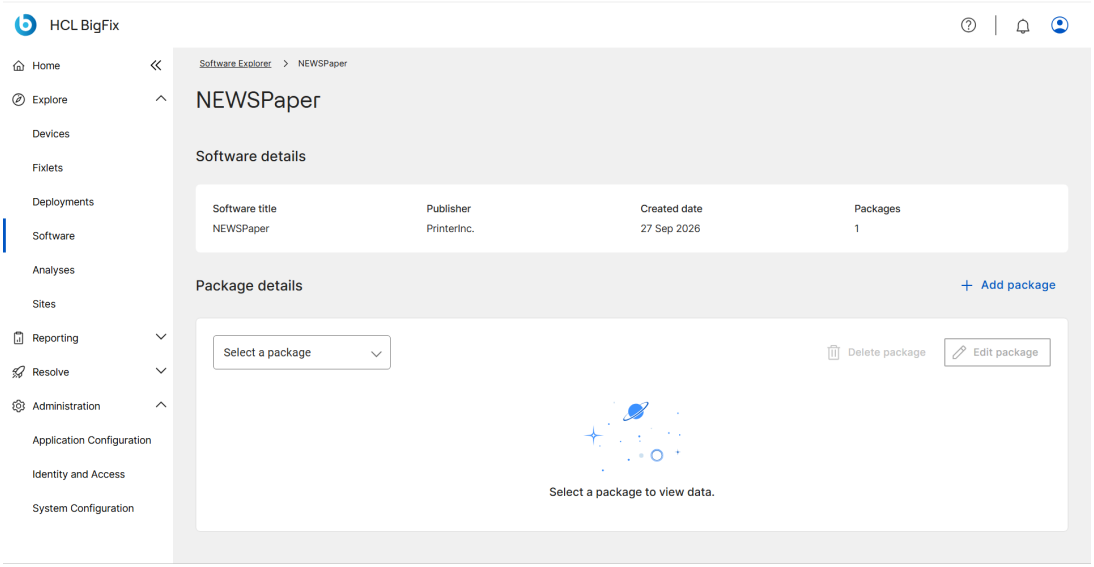
- **Publisher** — the software vendor.
- **Software** — the software title, which links to the Software Details page.
- **Packages** — the total number of Packages under this Software entry.
- **Files** — the total number of files across all Packages.
- **Tasks** — the total number of deployment tasks across all Packages.
- **Edit software** — a shortcut icon to open the software editor.

The list supports **Filter**, **Column** visibility toggles, and **Density** controls for viewing comfort, as well as a **Search** field for quick lookup.

Software Details Page

Clicking a Software title opens its **Software Details** page. From this page you can:

Figure 17. Software Details Page — Packages Tab and Package Contents

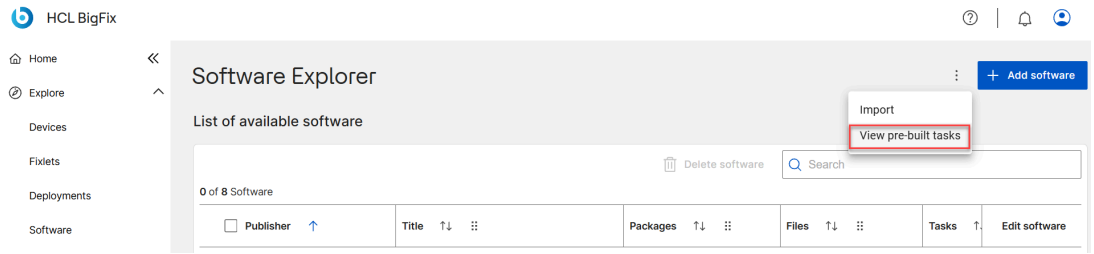


- View the software's title, publisher, creation date, and total package count.
- Switch between the **Packages** tab (to manage package content) and the **Deployments** tab (to view deployment history and status).
- Expand individual Package entries to view their Files and Tasks sub-lists.
- Add new Packages to this Software using **+ Add package**.
- Edit package information or add files and tasks to an existing package.
- Delete individual Packages or the entire Software entry with all its Packages.

Pre-built Fixlets — Software Installer Library

The Software Explorer page provides access to a library of pre-built deployment Fixlets. Click the 3 dots icon, the **more options icon** on the Software Explorer toolbar to open the **Pre-built Fixlets** page.

Figure 18. Software Explorer — Pre-built Fixlets Option



Pre-built Fixlets are predefined deployment tasks for common software titles. They are available when the following optional sites are enabled in your BigFix environment:

- **Software Installer Library for Windows**
- **Software Installer Library for macOS**

On the Pre-built Fixlets page, you can:

- Browse, filter, and search the available Fixlets by name, vendor, or release date.
- Select one or more Fixlets and click **Deploy Fixlet** to push them directly to target endpoints.

Tip: Enabling the Software Installer Library sites is the fastest way to deploy common off-the-shelf software without building a custom Package from scratch.

Related Tasks

Managing Software — Add and Delete *(on page 33)*

Adding Files to a Package *(on page 13)*

Getting Started with Software Distribution *(on page 7)*

Related Concepts

Software Entity *(on page 23)*

Package *(on page 21)*

Access Control *(on page 27)*

Adding and Deleting Software in BigFix Software Distribution

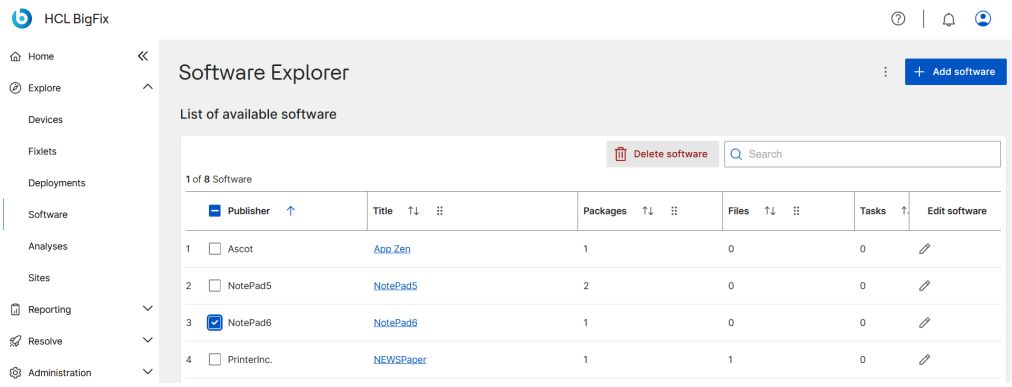
Use the Software Explorer page to add new Software entries (from a new Package or by importing a legacy package file) and to permanently delete existing Software entries along with all their associated Packages, Files, and Tasks.

From **Explore > Software**, the **Software Explorer** page provides the primary top-level actions for creating and removing Software entries. Both actions are available from the toolbar at the top of the page.

- Add a new Software entry
    1. Click **+ Add software** in the top-right corner of the Software Explorer page.
    2. Choose how to create the Software entry:
        - **Start from a new Package** — opens the Package creation form where you define metadata (title, publisher, version, OS, architecture, category, description), then upload files and create deployment tasks.
        - **Import an external Package file** — imports a Package that was previously exported from the legacy BigFix Console or WebUI. During import, all files are uploaded to the BFUI File Server and new Tasks are created in the BigFix Platform. See Limitations *(on page 28)* for migration constraints.
- Delete an existing Software entry

Warning: Deleting a Software entry is permanent and cascading. It deletes the selected Software and *all* Packages contained within it, including every File and Task associated with those Packages. This action cannot be undone.

Figure 19. Software Explorer — Selecting and Deleting a Software Entry



To delete Software:

1. On the Software Explorer page, select the checkbox next to the Software entry you want to remove.
2. Click **Delete software** in the toolbar.
3. Confirm the deletion in the confirmation dialog.

Next Steps After Adding Software

Adding Files to a Package *(on page 13)*

Configuring the Self Service Application *(on page 45)*

Reference

Navigating the BigFix UI Software Explorer *(on page 30)*

Limitations and Legacy Package Compatibility *(on page 28)*

Access Control *(on page 27)*

Managing Packages in BigFix Software Distribution

Managing a Package in BigFix Software Distribution involves two sequential activities: uploading installer and supporting files to the BFUI File Server, then creating the deployment tasks that reference those files and execute on target endpoints.

Package management in the BigFix UI takes place on the **Software Details** page. After a Package has been created as part of a Software entry, it needs two types of content before it can be deployed to endpoints: **files** and **tasks**.

Add Files to a Package *(on page 13)*

Upload the installer binary, transform files, configuration profiles, license files, and any other supporting resources to the BFUI File Server. Each file is associated with the Package and assigned a relative path that controls where it lands on the endpoint during deployment. Files must be uploaded before tasks can reference them.

Create a Deployment Task *(on page 40)*

Build deployment tasks — install, uninstall, repair, upgrade, or configuration — using the Add Task wizard. Each task selects a subset of the Package's files, defines the installation command, configures advanced options (pre/post-install scripts, logging, working directory), sets Self Service Application labels and icons, and defines the relevance expression that controls which endpoints the task targets.

Tip: A Package can have multiple tasks. For example, you can create a separate Install task and a Remove task within the same Package, each referencing different files and using different commands.

Related Tasks

Add Files to a Package *(on page 13)*

Create a Deployment Task *(on page 40)*

Related Topics

Adding and Deleting Software *(on page 33)*

Package — Understanding the Data Model *(on page 21)*

Using Software Distribution *(on page 30)*

Adding Files to a BigFix Software Distribution Package

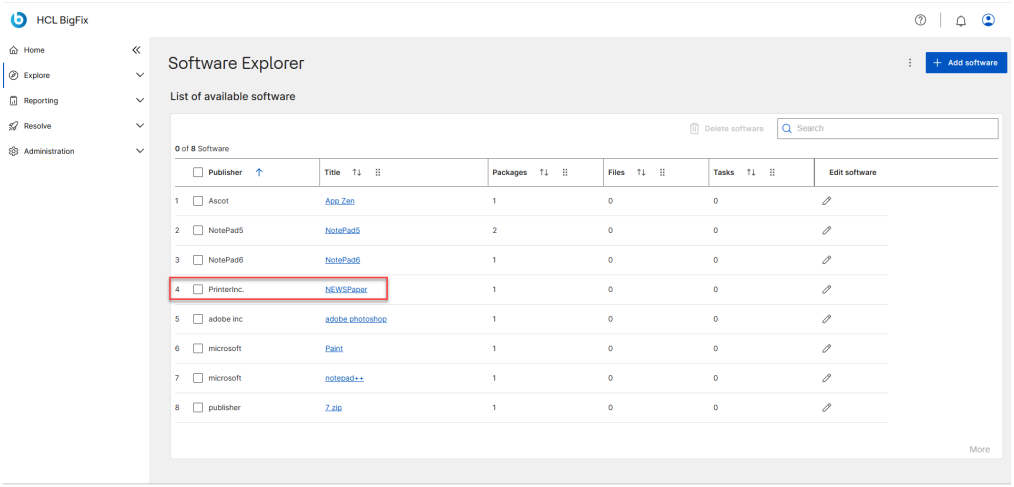
Upload installer binaries, configuration files, and supporting resources to the BFUI File Server to make them available for deployment tasks within a BigFix Software Distribution Package.

A Software entry and at least one Package must already exist before you can add files. See Adding and Deleting Software *(on page 33)* if you have not yet created a Software entry.

Files uploaded here are stored in the **BFUI File Server** and associated with the Package. They become selectable when creating deployment tasks. Upload all files the software lifecycle may need — installers, silent transform files, configuration profiles, license files, and supporting binaries — before creating tasks that reference them.

1. Navigate to **Explore > Software**.
2. Open the target Software entry by clicking the software title listed under **List of available software** from the **Software Explorer** page.

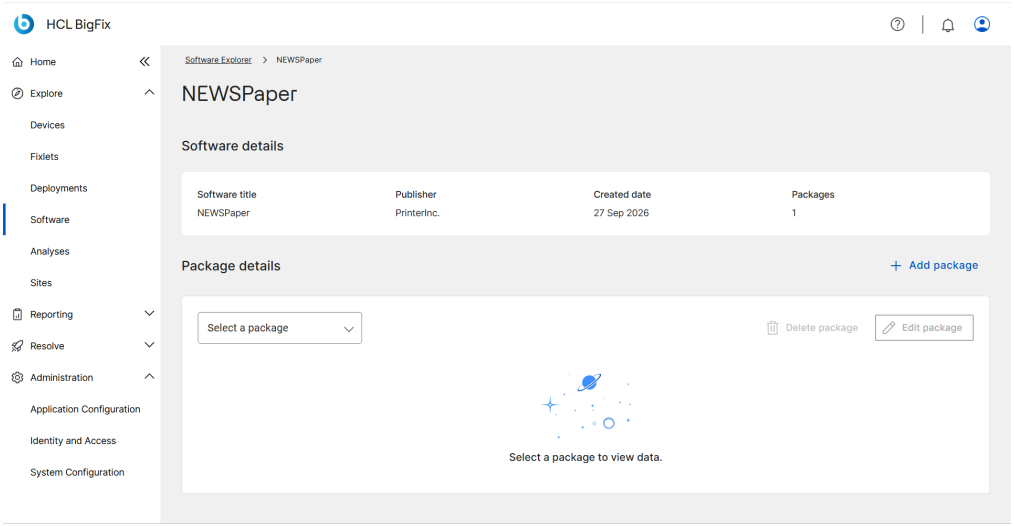
Figure 20. Software Explorer — Selecting a Software Entry



The **Software Details** page opens.

3. On the **Software Details** page, to view the package details, select the required package from the drop down.

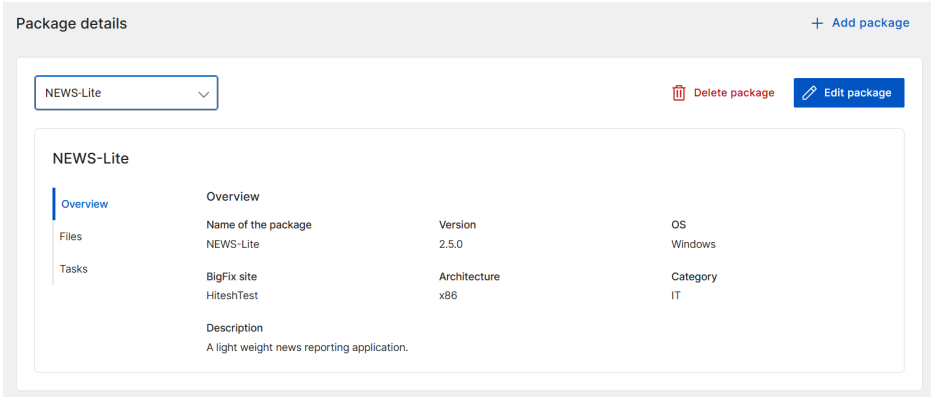
Figure 21. Software Details Page — Package Selector Drop-Down



4. The **Package details** section, lists a package's details under the 3 following heads:

- **Overview**: Displays an overview of the selected package. You can also edit or delete the package from here.

Figure 22. Package Details — Overview Tab

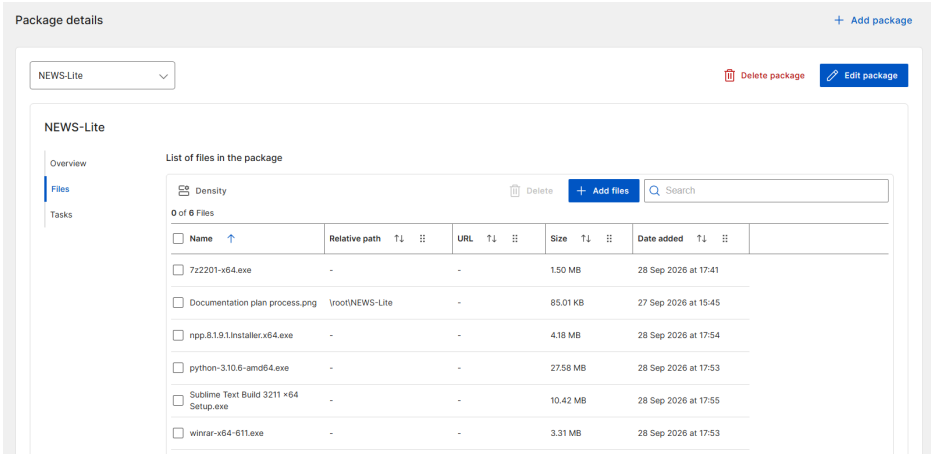


- **Files**: Add files to the package.

Tip: The list of supported file extensions for the automatic command creation is as follows:

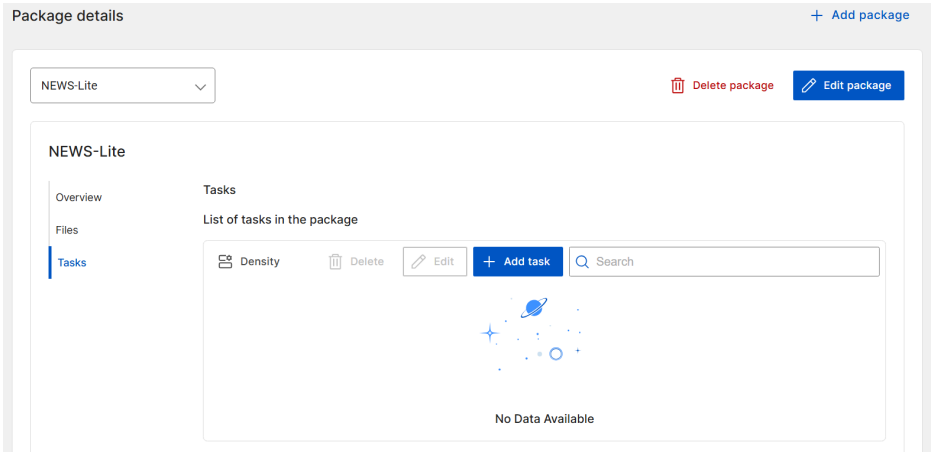
- `DMG`
- `MSI`
- `PKG`
- `RPM`

Figure 23. Package Details — Files Tab



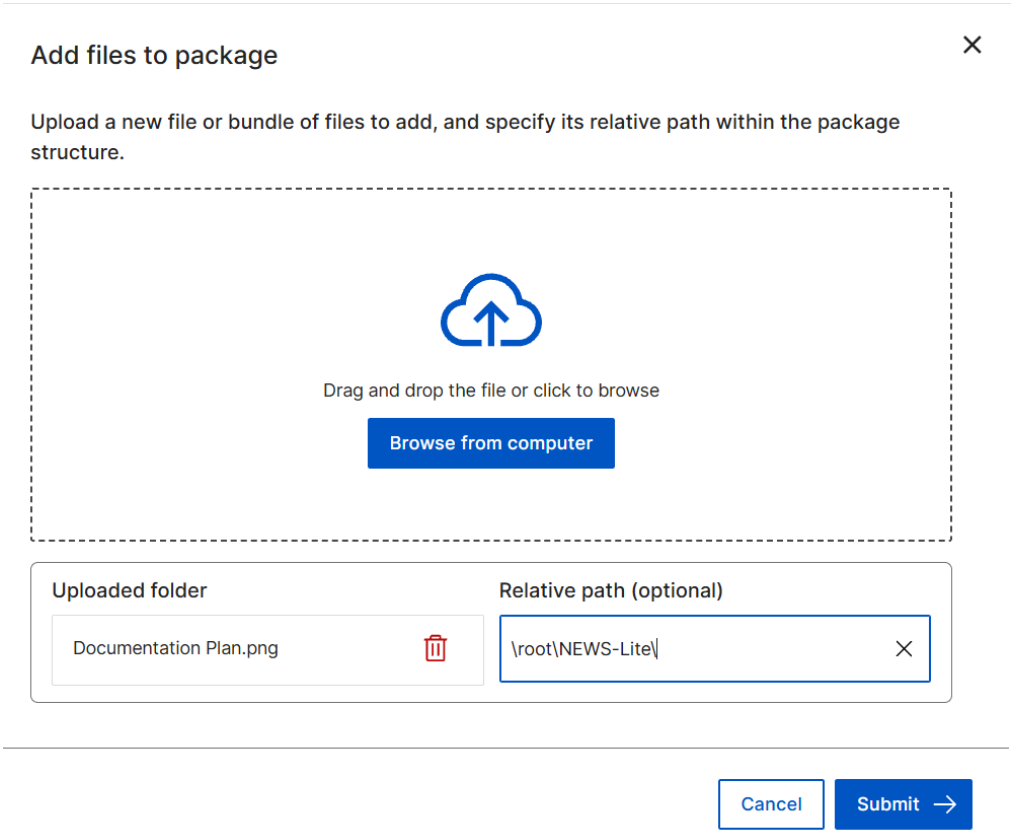
- **Tasks**: Add tasks to the package.

Figure 24. Package Details — Tasks Tab



5. To add files to the package, click **+ Add files**. The **Add files to package** page opens.

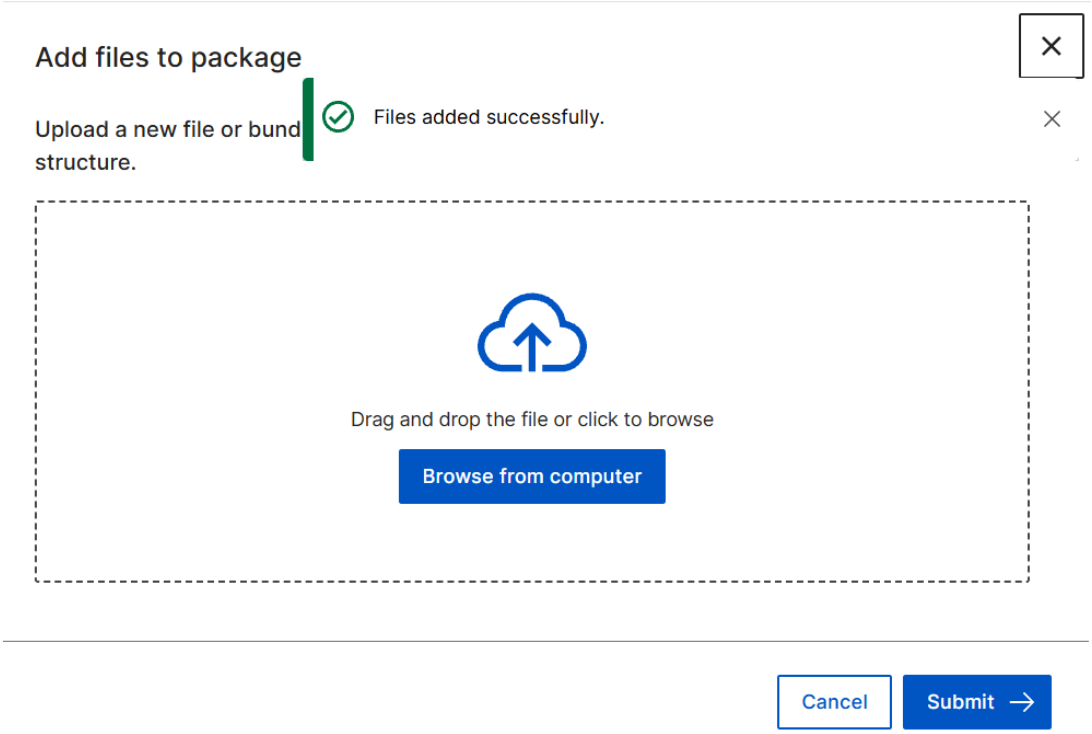
Figure 25. Add Files to Package — Upload File



Upload a new file or a bundle of files to add, and specify its relative path within the package structure.

6. Click **Submit →**.

Figure 26. Package Files Tab — Uploaded Files Listed



Note:

- Examples of files typically uploaded for a package:
  - Installer binaries — `setup.exe`, `NewsPaperCreator.msi`
  - Silent transform files — `NPC.mst`
  - Configuration profiles — `BasicProfile.bin`, `AdvancedProfile.bin`
  - Supporting resources — `resource.cfg`, `license.txt`
- For each uploaded file, define the **Relative Path** — the folder path where the file will be placed on the endpoint during task execution.
- If no relative path is specified, the file is placed in the task's working directory on the endpoint. Use relative paths to recreate a specific folder structure required by the installer.

The uploaded files are stored in the BFUI File Server and listed under the Package's **Files** tab. They are now selectable when creating or editing deployment tasks for this Package.

After uploading files, create the deployment tasks that reference them. See Creating a Deployment Task *(on page 40)*.

Next Step

Creating a Deployment Task *(on page 40)*

Related Topics

Adding and Deleting Software *(on page 33)*

Package — Understanding the Data Model *(on page 21)*

Navigating the BigFix UI Software Explorer *(on page 30)*

Creating a Deployment Task in a BigFix Software Distribution Package

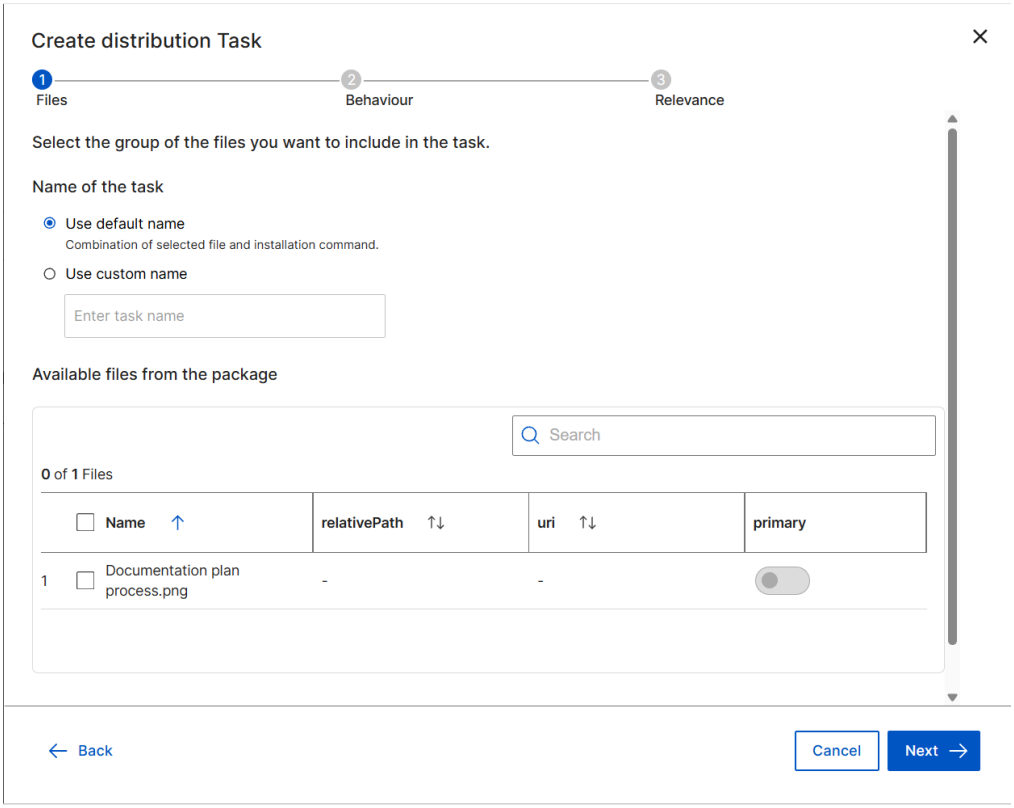
Use the Add Task wizard in the BigFix UI to create deployment tasks — install, uninstall, repair, upgrade, or configuration — within a Package, defining the installation command, advanced options, Self Service Application settings, and the relevance expression that controls when the task applies to endpoints.

Files must be uploaded to the Package before creating tasks that reference them. See Adding Files to a Package *(on page 13)*. You can create a task with zero files for uninstallation or configuration tasks that do not require downloading files to the endpoint.

The deployment task creation wizard follows a three-step flow: **Files → Behaviour → Conditions**. It mirrors the workflow available in the legacy BigFix Console, with additional options for Self Service Application (SSA) integration. A single Package can have multiple tasks — for example, separate Install, Remove, and Repair tasks, each referencing different subsets of the Package's files.

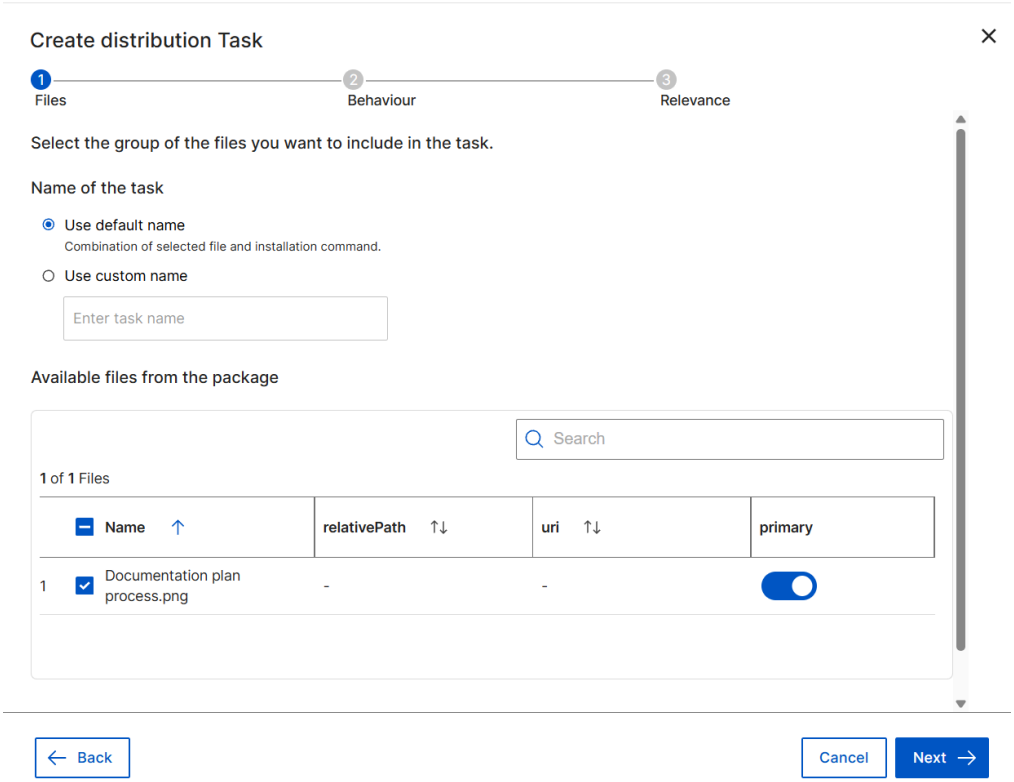
1. Navigate to **Explore > Software** and open the target Software entry.
2. From the **Package details > Tasks** tab, click **+ Add task**.
   The **Create distribution task** wizard opens at the **Files** step.
3. On the **Files** step, select either the **Use default name** or **Use custom name** option.

Figure 27. Add Task Wizard — Files Step: Task Name Configuration



4. Next, select the files to bundle with this task.

Figure 28. Add Task Wizard — Files Step: File Selection and Primary File



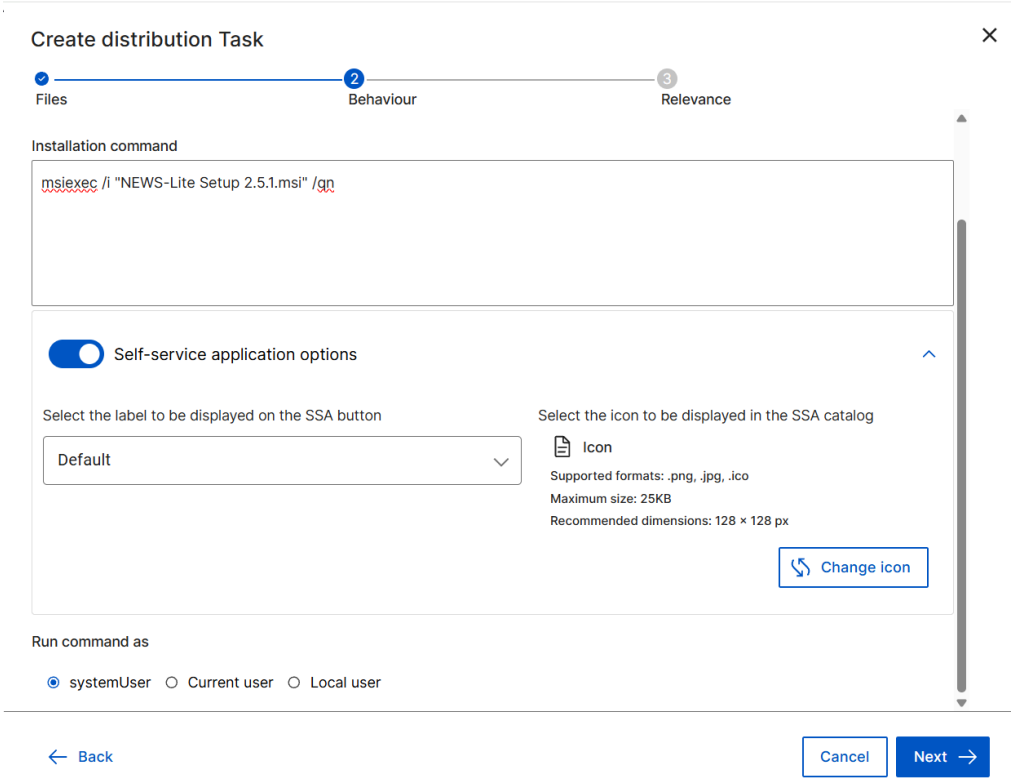
- Select a subset of the Package's uploaded files, all of them, or none (for uninstallation or configuration tasks).
- Different tasks within the same Package can use different file subsets — for example, two Install tasks can each include different files.

After selecting files:

- Designate one file as the **Primary file**. This file is used for introspection — for example, reading version metadata from an MSI.
- (Optional) Upload an **icon image** for the SSA catalog. Supported formats: PNG, JPG, ICO. Maximum size: 2 MB. Recommended dimensions: 120×120 px.

5. On the **Behaviour** step, define the installation command and configure task options.

Figure 29. Add Task Wizard — Behaviour Step: Installation Command and Options



Enter the **Installation command** (required) — the command executed on the endpoint when this task is deployed. Example:

```
msiexec /i "Firefox Setup 150.0.1.msi" /qn
```

a. (Optional) Expand **Self-service application options** to configure how this task appears to end users in the SSA:

Table 4. Self Service Application (SSA) Task Options

Field	Description
Select the label to be displayed on the SSA button	The action button label in the SSA Offer and Action Requests pages. Supported values: `Install`, `Remove`, `Repair`, `Upgrade`, `Get`, `Run`, `Default`.
Select the icon to be displayed in the SSA catalog	The icon displayed in the SSA catalog for this task. Supported formats: PNG, JPG, ICO. Maximum size: 2 MB. Recommended dimensions: 120×120 px.

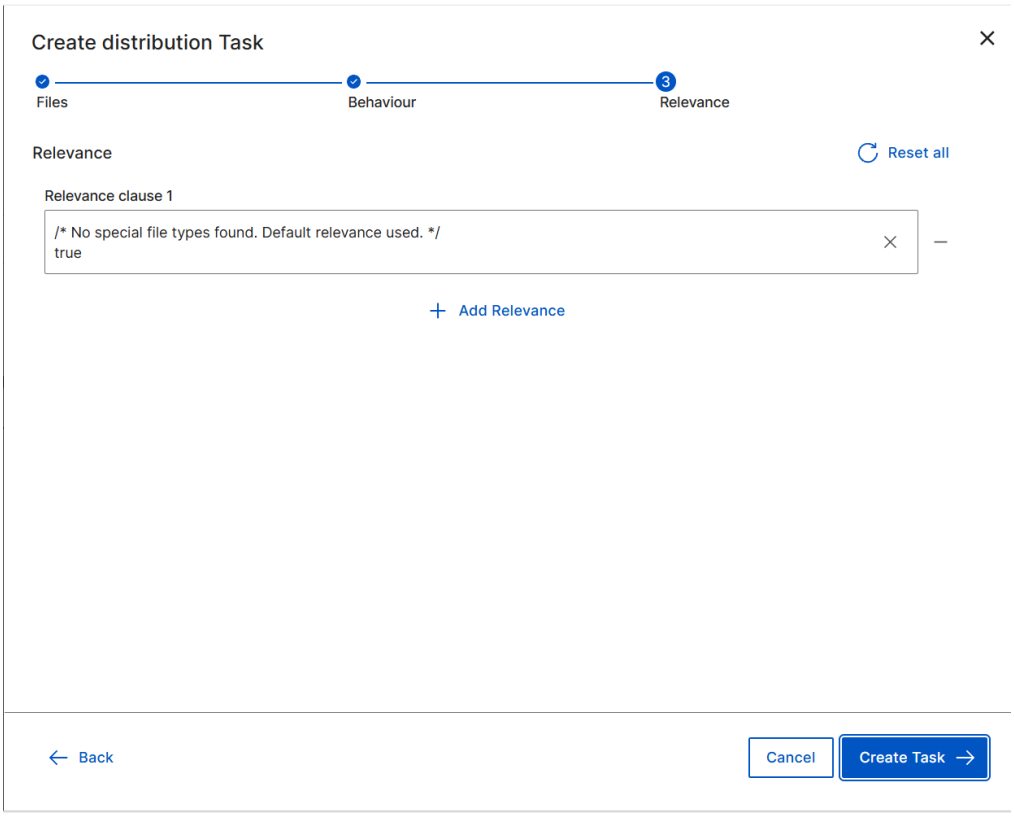
b. Select the **Run command as** user context for command execution on the endpoint:

Table 5. Run Command As — User Context Options

Option	Description
System user	Runs the command under the system account. Recommended for machine-wide installations that do not require a logged-in user.
Current user (Windows only)	Runs the command as the currently logged-in user. Use for per-user installations or tasks requiring user-context permissions.
Local user (Windows only)	Runs the command as a specified local user account.

6. On the **Conditions** step, define the **Relevance** expression for this task.

Figure 30. Add Task Wizard — Conditions Step: Relevance Expression



The relevance expression controls when the task is applicable. An endpoint must satisfy the condition for the task to appear as a deployment candidate or be visible to the device owner in the SSA. Use BigFix relevance language to target specific OS versions, installed software states, disk space, or other endpoint properties.

7. Review the task configuration and click **Create task →** to save it in the BigFix Platform.

The new deployment task appears in the Package's **Tasks** list and is immediately available for deployment to endpoints. If SSA options were configured, the task is also visible to device owners in the Self Service Application when its relevance condition is met on their device.

To make the task visible and request able through the Self Service Application, configure the SSA on your endpoints. See Configuring the Self Service Application *(on page 45)*.

Before You Create a Task

Adding Files to a Package *(on page 13)*

Package — Understanding the Data Model *(on page 21)*

After Creating Your Task

Configuring the Self Service Application *(on page 45)*

Navigating the BigFix UI Software Explorer *(on page 30)*

Configuring the Self Service Application from the BigFix UI

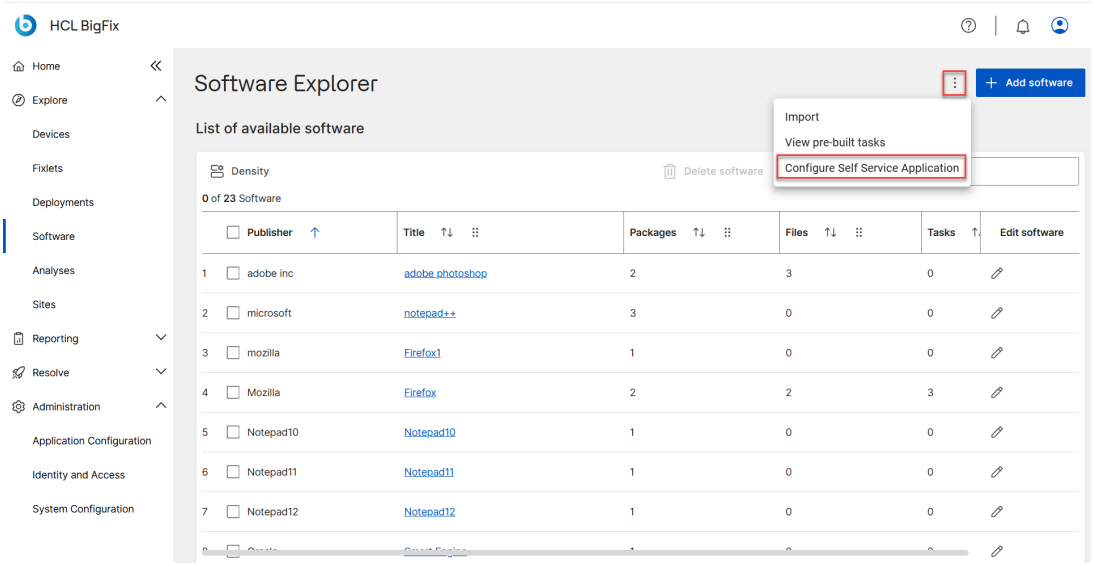
Use the Configure Self Service Application wizard from the Software Explorer page to generate a BigFix deployment task that installs, upgrades, and configures the Self Service Application (SSA) on endpoints — controlling notifications, offerings, behavior, and appearance from a guided four-step wizard.

Before configuring the Self Service Application, ensure that:

- You have administrator access in the BigFix UI.
- Software packages with SSA-enabled tasks (with labels and icons) have been created so that end users can see and request software offers. See Managing Packages — Adding Files and Tasks *(on page 34)*.

The **Self Service Application Configuration** wizard is accessible from the three dots (**More**) options icon on the **Software Explorer** page in the BigFix UI. The wizard generates an **Install and Configuration** BigFix Task that, when deployed to endpoints, installs or upgrades the SSA application with the settings you define.

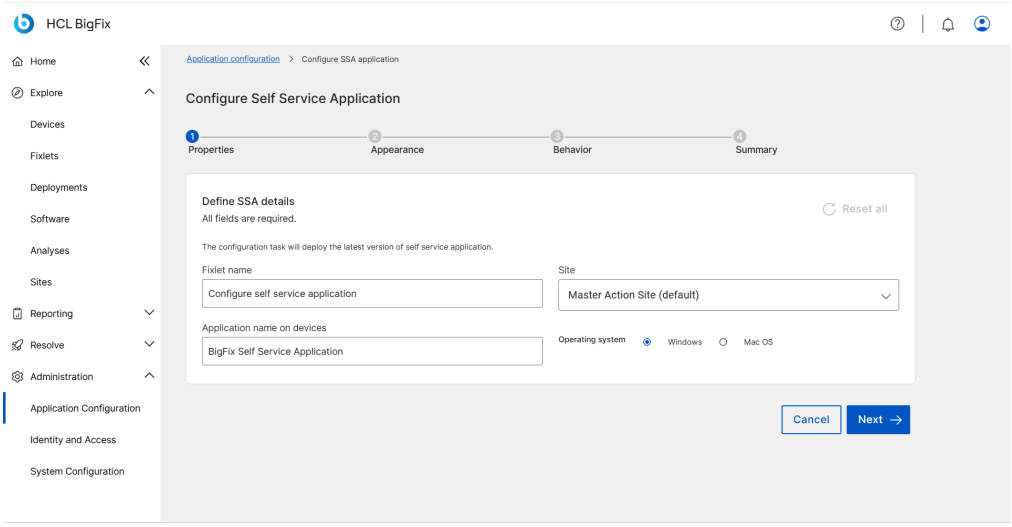
Figure 31. BigFix UI Administration — Application Configuration Page



The behavior of this wizard is equivalent to the SSA Configuration page in the legacy BigFix WebUI, making the migration from the legacy tool straightforward for administrators already familiar with that workflow.

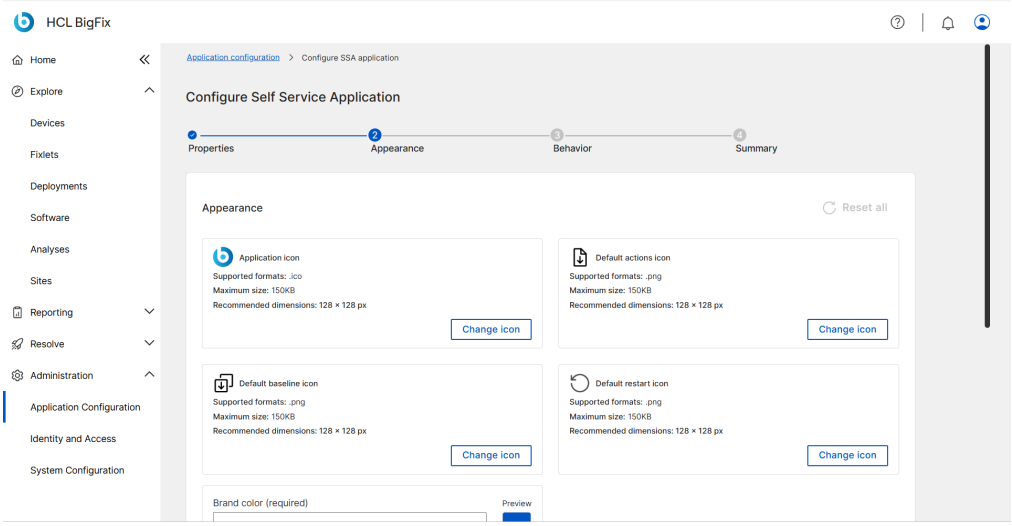
1. On the **Software Explorer** page, click the three dots (**More**) icon and click **Configure Self Service Application**. The wizard opens at the **Properties** step (Step 1 of 4).
2. On the **Properties** step (Step 1), configure the SSA installation properties and define which version of the SSA will be deployed.

Figure 32. SSA Configuration Wizard — Step 1: Properties



3. On the **Appearance** step (Step 2), customize the visual look and feel of the SSA as it will be presented to end users on their devices.

Figure 33. SSA Configuration Wizard — Step 2: Appearance



Appearance settings may include branding elements, color themes, and layout preferences visible to device owners using the SSA.

4. On the **Behavior** step (Step 3), configure SSA runtime behavior settings using the sub-sections in the left panel:

Figure 34. SSA Configuration Wizard — Step 3: Behavior

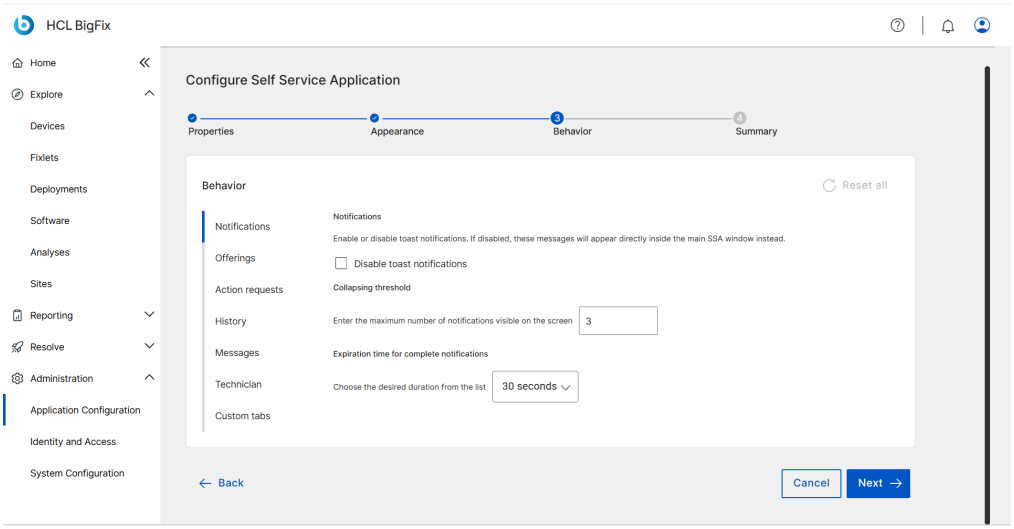


Table 6. SSA Behavior Configuration Sub-sections

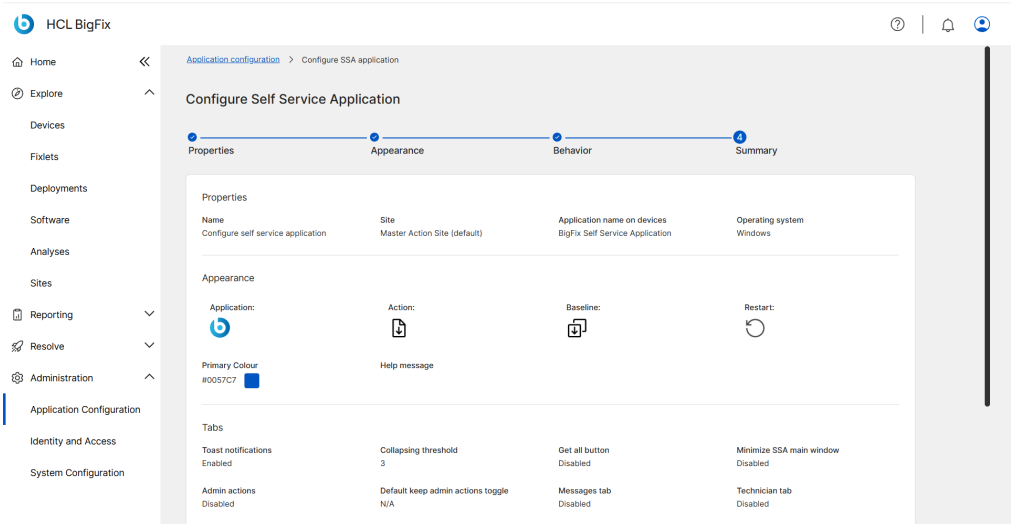
Sub-section	Configuration Options
Notifications	Enable or disable toast notifications. When disabled, messages appear directly inside the SSA window instead of as desktop toasts. Set the **collapsing threshold** (maximum number of notifications visible on screen simultaneously) and the **expiration time** for completed notifications.
Offerings	Configure how software offerings and offers are presented in the SSA catalog including visibility behavior. Also, enable the **Get all** button from here and set this tab as default in SSA.
Action Requests	Enable minimization of SSA main window at deadline and also set this tab as default in SSA.
History	Configure the action history view available to end users, including how far back the history extends. Also, enable the **Admin actions** toggle and set this tab as default in SSA.
Messages	Enable **Messages** to receive Administrator messages and set this tab as default in SSA. Messages tab allows the logged in user to view and manage messages.
Technician	Enable the **Technician** tab for SSA technician users. A Technician dashboard in SSA is hidden by default. It is often used to provide diagnostic information available to an endpoint administrator.

Sub-section	Configuration Options
Custom Tabs	Add and configure custom tabs that appear in the SSA navigation, for example to surface internal links, web portals, or custom content to end users.

Tip: Use **Reset all** on the Behavior step to revert all settings to their factory defaults without having to reconfigure each sub-section individually.

5. On the **Summary** step (Step 4), review all configured settings across Properties, Appearance, and Behavior.

Figure 35. SSA Configuration Wizard — Step 4: Summary Before Submission



6. Click **Submit** on the Summary step to generate and save the Install and Configuration BigFix Task. The task is stored in the BigFix Platform and is ready to deploy to target endpoints.
7. Deploy the generated Install and Configuration task to your target endpoints using the standard BigFix deployment workflow.

The Self Service Application is installed or upgraded on target endpoints with the settings defined in the wizard. Device owners can now open the SSA on their endpoints to browse available software offerings, submit action requests, and view their action history.

After deploying the SSA, ensure your deployment tasks have been configured with SSA labels and icons so that they appear as visible offers in the SSA catalog. See Managing Packages — Adding Files and Tasks *(on page 34)* for SSA task configuration details.

Prerequisite Setup

Managing Packages — Adding Files and Tasks (including SSA Labels and Icons) *(on page 34)*

Adding Files to a Package *(on page 33)*

Background Reading

BigFix Software Distribution — Overview *(on page 5)*

Getting Started with Software Distribution *(on page 7)*

Navigating the BigFix UI Software Explorer *(on page 30)*

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