

WDS INSTALL AND BOOT IMAGES

And if you would like to deploy a 32bit system, you must have a 32bit install.wim file and if you would like to deploy a 64bit system, you must have a 64bit install.wim file.

Regarding boot.wim, you must use 64bit boot.wim to deploy 64bit install.wim. However, you can use 32bit boot.wim to deploy both 32bit and 64bit install.wim. And you can use one boot.wim to deploy multiple install.wim files.

What is the difference between an install image and a boot image?

The goal of Windows Deployment Services is to efficiently **install Windows 8** on multiple **computers** automatically. You will first install Windows on a computer called the reference computer. After you are finished installing Windows on the reference computer, your next goal is to copy the contents of the hard disk drive of that **Windows installation** onto other computers. That copy is called an **Install image**. You use the install **image** to deploy Windows 8 to the other computer in the company. The file format of an install image is WIM. There is another definition of an install image that might be clearer to understand. An install image is a WIM file containing a Windows operating system. You cannot create an install image of Windows while Windows 8 is running. You must boot the computer using Windows PE. In the Windows Deployment Services world, a **Boot Image** is a bootable copy of Win PE that is **setup** to automatically **contact** the WDS Server over the network when the computer boots up.

In the Windows Deployment Services world, there are two types of boot images:

1. **Capture Image** is a bootable copy of Win PE that allows you to copy the hard disk of the reference computer as a WIM file over the network to WDS. This WIM file is called the Install image. The capture image is a specialize version of Win PE works with PXE to boot the computer over the network using PXE. When Win PE boots, the capture image will find the Windows Deployment Server and create the install image to Windows Deployment Services.
2. **Discover Image:** A bootable copy of Win PE that allows you to copy the reference computer as a WIM file. Unlike a capture image, the Discover Image is booted via DVD or USB Key.