

TechNote: Registering/Unregistering VI Client Plugin without a single line of code

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The problem:

VMware has provided several utilities in Java, Powershell, and Perl for managing VI Client Plug-in registration¹. You can incorporate them into your plug-in installer or scripts.

These utilities might not be enough for occasional usage, for example, in your development or at customer site when you want to tweak something.

The solution:

Here is yet another approach which does the job without writing a single line of code. It takes advantages of ManagedObject Browser. The following are the detailed steps:

1), Open a browser and point it to http://<VC_hostname_or_ip>/mob (change the placeholder to a real one). Note that you must navigate to a VC server, ESX servers don't support the operations described in this document. After entering the user and password, you will see the top page of MOB.

2), Click on the "content" link and then "ExtensionManager" link. You will see the page for the ExtensionManager like the following:

Home

Managed Object Type: ManagedObjectReference:ExtensionManager
Managed Object ID: ExtensionManager

Properties

NAME	TYPE	VALUE
extensionList	Extension[]	<ul style="list-style-type: none">extensionList["com.vmware.vcDr"]extensionList["com.vmware.cde.demo"]

Methods

RETURN TYPE	NAME
Extension	FindExtension
string	GetPublicKey
void	RegisterExtension
void	SetPublicKey
void	UnregisterExtension
void	UpdateExtension

¹ <http://communities.vmware.com/community/developer/viclientplugins>

3), Click on the "RegisterExtension" in the methods section and you will get another browser window popping up like the following:

Managed Object Type:
ManagedObjectReference:ExtensionManager
Managed Object ID: ExtensionManager
Method: RegisterExtension

void RegisterExtension

Parameters

NAME	TYPE	VALUE
extension (required)	Extension	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 60px;"></div>

[Invoke Method](#)

4), In the form extension field, enter a modified version of the following. You can change the related values as highlighted in yellow, but not the value of extension.server.type. Neither should any tag or the order of the tags in this template be changed. Before the xml is submitted, I recommend you validate it at least with Internet Explorer. Just save it to a file say ext.xml, and open it with IE. If there is an obvious mistake like missing tag, IE reports it.

```
<extension>
  <description>
    <label>com.vmware.cde.demo</label>
    <summary>This is my Plugin description!</summary>
  </description>

  <key>com.vmware.cde.demo</key>
  <version>1.0.0</version>
  <subjectName>/O=VMware/OU=CDE/CN=VI Client plugin</subjectName>

  <server>
    <url>http://10.17.216.162:8000/vmware/demo.xml</url>  <!--
Replace this URL with the URL to your plugin config XML -->
    <description>
      <label>com.vmware.cde.demo</label>
      <summary>This is my Plugin description!</summary>
    </description>
    <company>VMware Inc.</company>
    <type>com.vmware.vim.viClientScripts</type>  <!-- DO NOT CHANGE
TYPE HERE!!! -->
```

```

    <adminEmail>admin@acme.com</adminEmail>
  </server>

  <client>
    <version>1.0.0</version>
    <description>
      <label>com.vmware.cde.demo</label>
      <summary>This is my Plugin description!</summary>
    </description>
    <company>VMware Inc.</company>
    <type>Script Plugin</type>
    <url></url>
  </client>

  <lastHeartbeatTime>2008-12-12T12:59:26.234375Z</lastHeartbeatTime>
</extension>

```

5). Click on the "Invoke Method" link and you are done. Refreshing the ExtensionManager, you will see the newly added extension listed in the extensionList property.

Now, what if you want to remove an extension. Just click on the "UnregisterExtension", and you will get a page like this:

Managed Object Type:
ManagedObjectReference:ExtensionManager
 Managed Object ID: ExtensionManager
 Method: **UnregisterExtension**

void UnregisterExtension

Parameters

NAME	TYPE	VALUE
extensionKey (required)	string	<input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>

[Invoke Method](#)

Just enter the key as string, for example, com.vmware.cde.demo, and click the "Invoke Method" link.

Discussion

This is not a recommended way for you to register and unregister plug-ins since it is not automated and could be error prone while modifying the parameter in XML. Using the utilities is a better way.

There are other methods in the ExtensionManager page as well. I don't recommend they are touched especially by your customers.