

I. Introduction

The purpose of the SysAngel DVD Generator is to enable you to build a full, completely unattended, Windows installation bootable DVD out of a generic Microsoft Windows XP CD-Rom and an Internet connection. The chosen installation mode is an original, powerful, Linux-based one.

II. What you need to use SysAngel DVD Generator (Prerequisites)

- **A Windows XP CD-Rom**
 - Can be either XP Home, either XP Professional;
 - Only 32 bit versions are known to work now;
 - The language version can be any of the following :
 - English, French, Spanish, Italian, German, Japanese
 - Traditional Chinese, simplified Chinese, Arabic, Hebrew, Korean.
 - You don't have to provide the CD-Rom itself : a complete i386 directory is fine, should it be on a CD-Rom or on any media (hard disk drive, usb key...)
- **An access to the web**
 - You've got to be able to surf the web. This means that accessing the Internet through a http proxy is fine; in that case, you'll have to know how to configure your proxy settings (proxy server, port, user, password).
 - It is recommended that your bandwidth should be fast enough (1 mbps), but not mandatory. The SysAngel DVD Generator might have to download a large quantity of data (up to 2.5 Go, depending on your choices and needs). With a 1 mbps-fast connection, downloading 2.5 Go might take about 7 hours. Note that in case of interruption, the download process can be resumed from the point it has been stopped.
- **Space!**
 - You might need to have up to 6 Go of free space on a drive partition. The DVD Generator will have to download a lot of files, then generate a somewhat big ISO image, ready to be burnt on your future CD or DVD.
- **A Burner** (unless generating an ISO image is enough to meet your needs.) Depending on the size of the generated ISO, you might have to burn either a CD, either a DVD.

III. Downloading and Installing the SysAngel DVD Generator

- The homepage of the DVD Generator is: <http://dvdgen.windowsdream.com/>

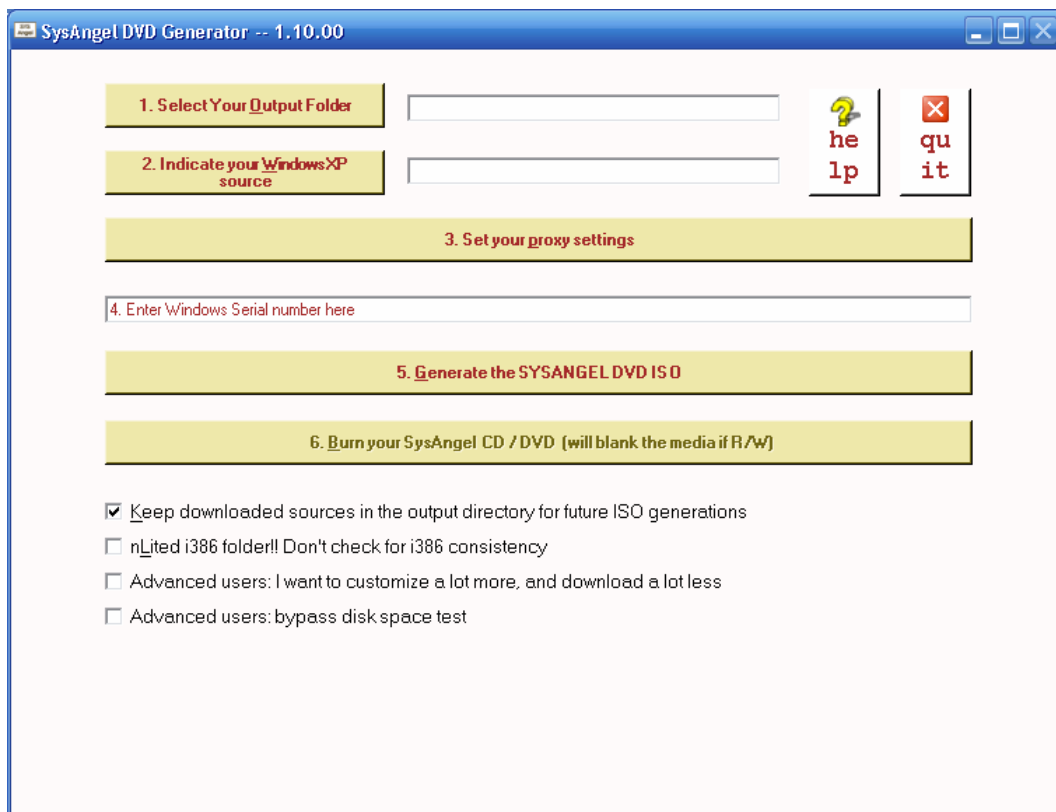
- Click on the download button and save the DVD_Generator-X.XX-EN.exe file on your computer.



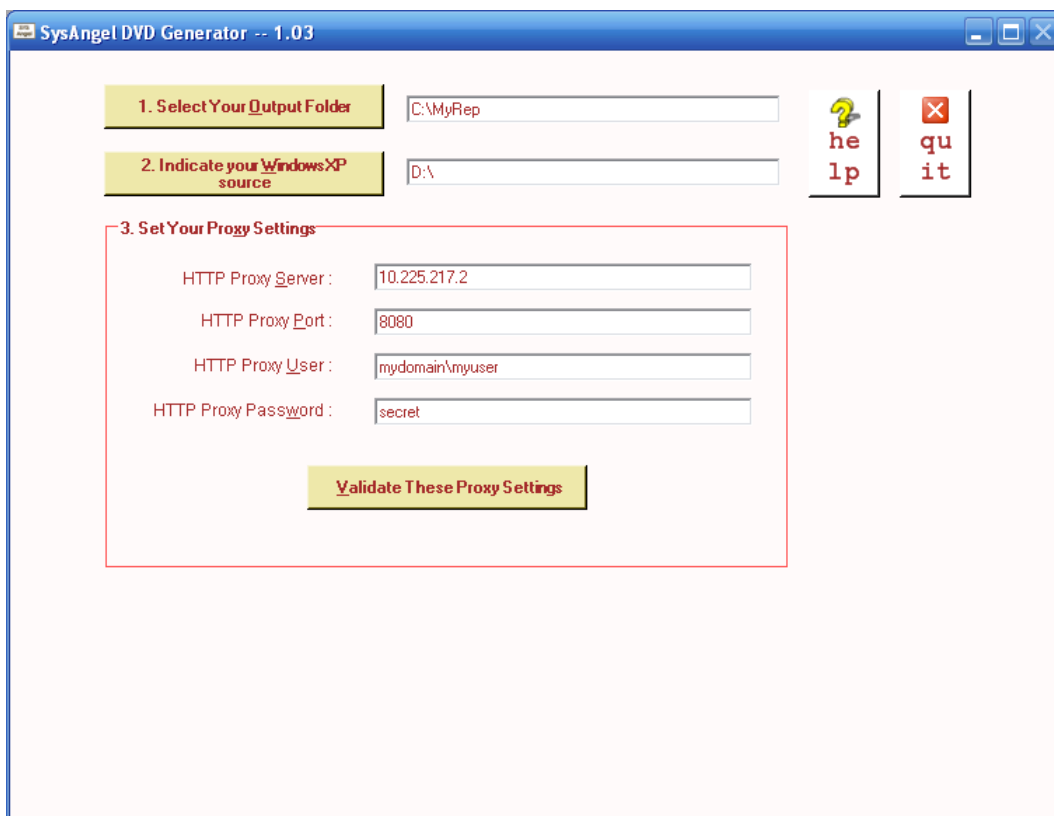
- Execute the EXE. It will automatically self unextract, and install itself. Be aware that it will install Microsoft .NET Framework 2.0 too. If you already have .NET Framework (at least version 1.1), then you can safely download the smaller DVD_Generator-X.XX-EN-NoDotnet.exe file.
- You should get a shortcut on your Desktop, and a SysAngel program group on your Start menu as well. The installation is done.

IV. Using the DVD Generator

1. Launch the DVD Generator, and accept the license agreement.
2. You should then get to the main screen :



3. First, click on **“1. Select Your Output Folder”**. This is the directory where the Generator will generate your ISO, and store downloaded sources. You have to create this directory, which you can do using the browsing interface.
4. Click on **“2. Indicate your Windows XP source”**. This can be either the i386 directory (found in any Windows XP CD-Rom), either the parent directory of the i386. Example: if you’ve got an XP CD-Rom on your D: drive, then browse to the D:\ directory.
5. If you need a proxy server to access the web, then click on **“3. Set your proxy settings”**. You will be asked for the name of the proxy server, its port, and a valid username and password to use it (if necessary). Fill the form and validate. Example:



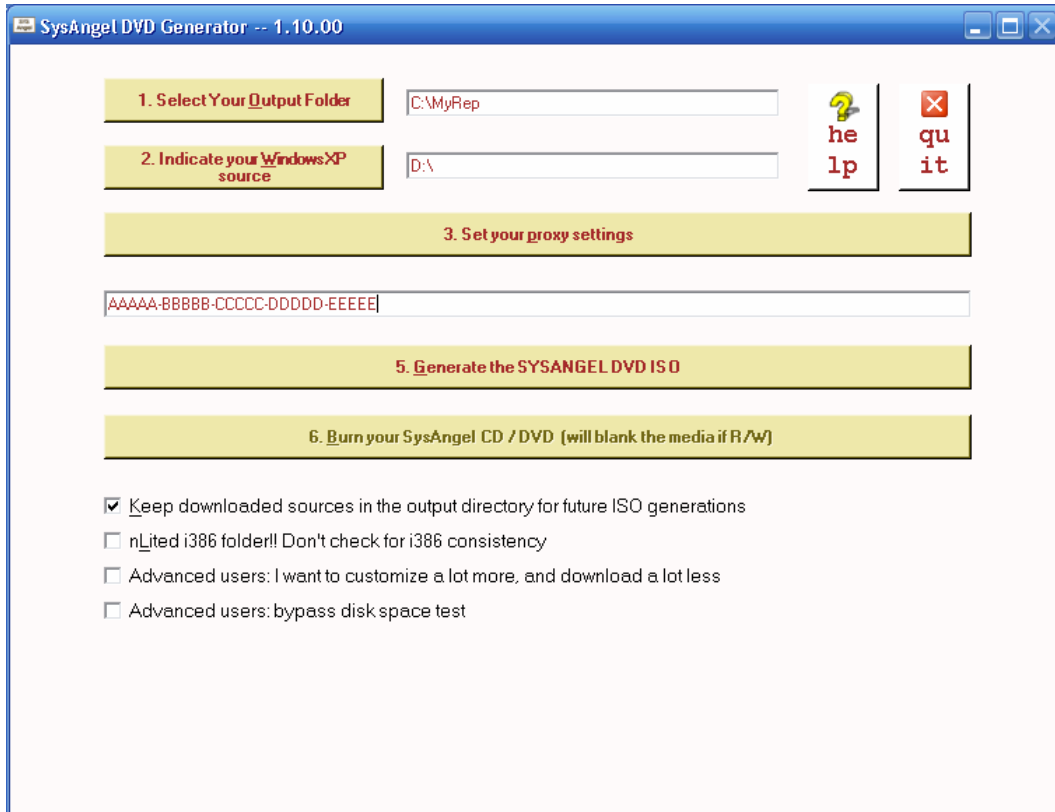
The screenshot shows the SysAngel DVD Generator -- 1.03 application window. The interface includes three main sections:

- 1. Select Your Output Folder:** A text input field containing "C:\MyRep".
- 2. Indicate your Windows XP source:** A text input field containing "D:\".
- 3. Set Your Proxy Settings:** A section enclosed in a red border, containing four text input fields:
 - HTTP Proxy Server: 10.225.217.2
 - HTTP Proxy Port: 8080
 - HTTP Proxy User: mydomain\myuser
 - HTTP Proxy Password: secret
 Below these fields is a yellow button labeled "Validate These Proxy Settings".

On the right side of the window, there are two buttons: "help" (with a question mark icon) and "quit" (with a close icon).

6. Fill the **“4. Enter your Windows Serial number here”** field. The serial number should be a hyphen-separated five-field string (eg.: AAAAA-BBBBB-CCCC-DDDDD-EEEE). Important: if you don’t know your serial, or want to be asked for it each time you’ll use your future DVD to install Windows, then blank the line.

7. The main screen should look like this :



8. That's it. Just click on "5. **Generate the SYSANGEL DVD ISO**" and let the process do its job. If everything goes according to the plan, the last button, "6. **Burn your SysAngel DVD ISO**", will be clickable, and should burn the DVD.iso file.

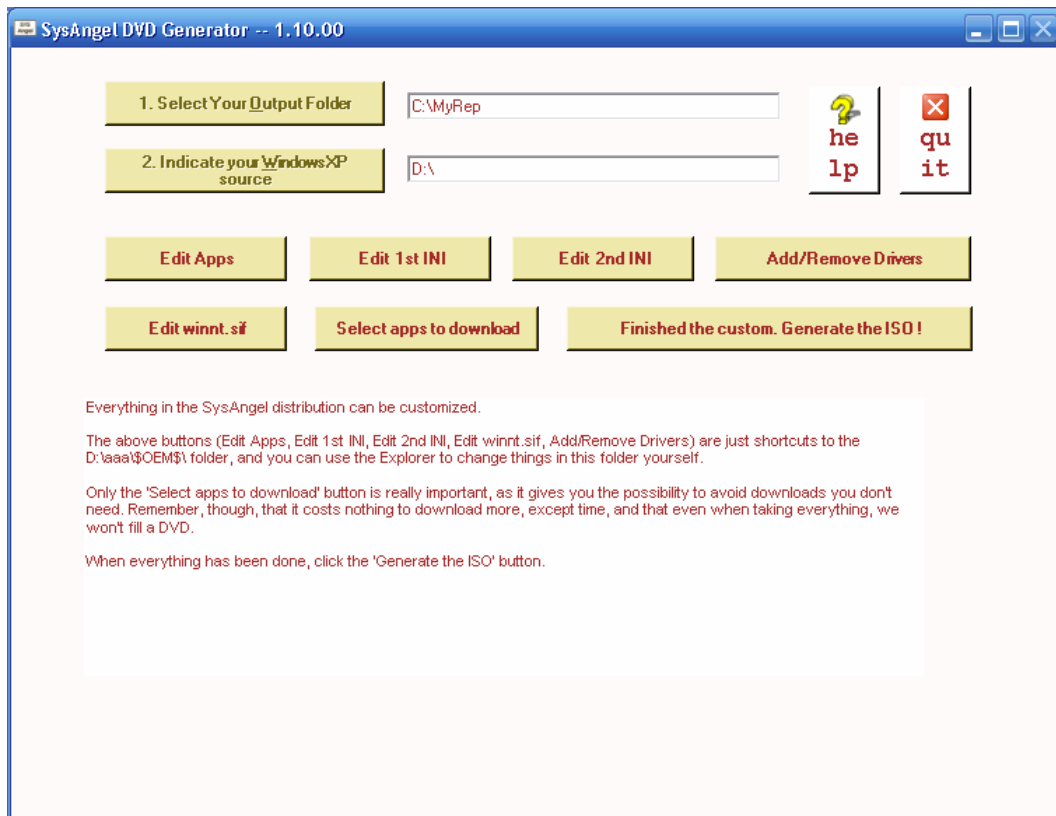
V. What about the options

- **Keep downloaded sources in the output directory for future ISO generations**
 - You might use the DVD Generator several times. Downloading 1 or 2 Go is time-consuming... for this reason, keeping downloaded files is a good idea.
 - Note that if some files are updated on the server, your local files will be mirrored automatically.
 - If a download has been interrupted, the Generator will be able to resume it.

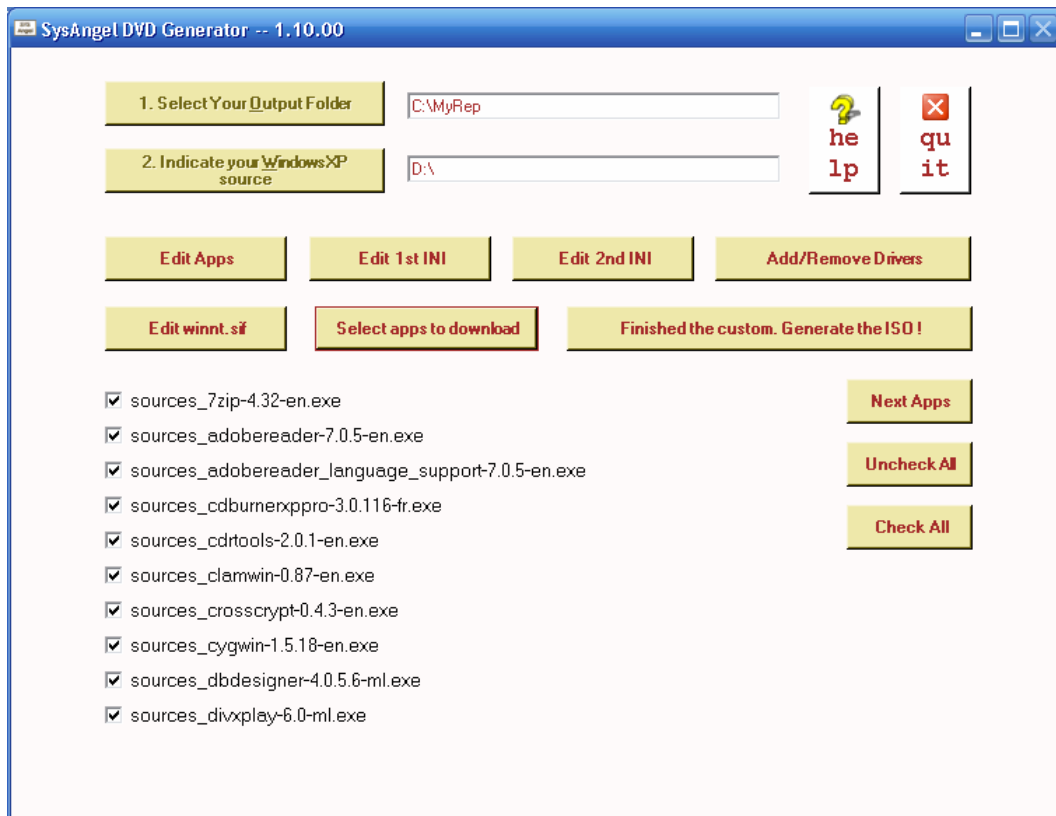
- **nLited folder!!! Don't check for i386 consistency**
 - In some specific cases, you might have to provide a i386 folder somewhat different from what Microsoft releases. Using nLite is a way to do so.
 - By making the Generator skip consistency tests over the i386, this checkbox clearly brings compatibility to nLite.

- **Advanced users: bypass disk space test**
 - When every possible file is downloaded from our server, the total amount of needed space can be huge, and reach 6 Go. So, it was safe to make the Generator checks for such an amount of space before trying anything.
 - Yet, if you have checked the "Keep downloaded sources..." checkbox, it is clear that the Generator will be able to download a lot less files, so the 6-Go need is not anymore mandatory.
 - If you're using a nLited i386 directory, you'll need slightly less space, too (about 300 or 400 Mo less).
 - Finally, if you choose to use the "Advanced users: I want to customize a lot more and download a lot less" option, you will obviously need a lot less space.
 - In such cases, the "Bypass disk space test" checkbox should be checked.

- **Advanced users: I want to customize a lot more and download a lot less**
 - By checking this checkbox, you get the possibility to customize everything that is to be installed by your future CD or DVD.
 - If checking it, the first thing the Generator will do is to download the winnt.sif and oem.7z files, because every customizable thing is within them.
 - After they have been downloaded, oem.7z will be uncompressed, and you should get the following screen :



- You're in control, and this should go fast! There are several ways you can customize the distribution, according to your needs and computer knowledge. Exploring the C:\MyRep\%OEM%\ folder (assuming C:\MyRep is your output folder) is a direct approach. But you may also use the **"Edit Apps"**, **"Edit 1st ini"**, **"Edit 2nd ini"**, **"Edit winnt.sif"** and **"Add/Remove Drivers"** buttons. Parameters files should be opened with Windows Notepad, and contain useful comments.
- The most wanted option is probably the **"Select apps to download"** button. By clicking it, you should get this :



- **Every application to be downloaded from the server** appears, and can be chosen or removed. Note that you cannot choose them another way than clicking the “Select apps to download” button.
- **Finally, note that to add your own applications**, you’ll have to click the “Edit Apps” button, and follow the procedure explained in the comments you’ll see within this text file.

VI. The Making : what can go wrong, solving the issues

- **The DVD Generator needs external tools**, that are normally installed with the Generator itself. Looking for them should not be a problem. Be aware, though, that some of these third-party tools are Cygwin-dependant. Thus, **you cannot use at the same time a Cygwin-based application, and the DVD Generator**, and doing so should lead to an error message.
 - ⇒ Close your Cygwin applications and start the DVD Generator again.
- **The Output Folder must have been created.** The Generator will not do it, and complain that it cannot be found.

- ⇒ Create this folder, make sure it is writable, and start the DVD Generator again.
- **Space.** You need a certain amount of space on the disk partition containing your output folder (currently 6 Go). The Generator will abort and complain if such an amount cannot be found.
 - ⇒ Free some space or choose another location for the output and click the “5. Generate the SYSANGEL DVD ISO” button again.
 - ⇒ The Generator might be wrong to complain. For example, you might have already used the tool, and kept downloaded sources. Thus, the Generator should not need 6 Go any more... In such a case, click the “Advanced users: bypass the space check” checkbox.
- **No working Internet connection.** The DVD Generator will try to download a small text file from a web site. Unless it succeeds doing so, it will complain.
 - ⇒ Check your connection;
 - ⇒ Connect if you are not;
 - ⇒ If you’re using a proxy, fill the proxy parameters;
 - ⇒ Then, click the “5. Generate the SYSANGEL DVD ISO” button again.
- **No i386 directory.** The Windows XP Source you give must be a i386 directory, or contain a i386 directory. Unless it can be found, the process will not start.
 - ⇒ Check your Windows XP media or directory;
 - ⇒ Click “2. Indicate your Windows XP Source” again;
 - ⇒ Then, click the “5. Generate the SYSANGEL DVD ISO” button again.
- **Not a complete i386 directory.** The DVD Generator will make some basic consistency tests on your i386 directory, and stop unless it seems complete.
 - ⇒ Check your Windows XP media or directory;
 - ⇒ Click “2. Indicate your Windows XP Source” again;
 - ⇒ Then, click the “5. Generate the SYSANGEL DVD ISO” button again.
 - ⇒ In some cases, the Generator might be wrong in its consistency test! For example, if you have used nLite (<http://www.nliteos.com>) to generate a shrunked i386 directory, the consistency test will fail. In such a case, click the “nLited i386 folder!! Don’t check for i386 consistency” checkbox.
- **Windows must be XP (32 bit).** Unless the version of Windows you provide complies to the prerequisites, you will be re-asked for a working i386. Example: you might have provided a Windows 2000 or 2003 or XP 64 bit version.
 - ⇒ Check your Windows XP media or directory;
 - ⇒ Click “2. Indicate your Windows XP Source” again;

⇒ Then, click the “5. Generate the SYSANGEL DVD ISO” button again.

In any case, and if no solution has been found, you should be aware that the SysAngel DVD Generator logs its activity. The log file can be found in your %TEMP% directory, and should be named %COMPUTERNAME%.DVD_Generator.log .

If you need help, this log will certainly be useful for us to read. Go and post it on the forum of our website => <http://dvdgen.windowdream.com/> .

VII. What the DVD Generator does

- ⇒ Download latest sources from our repository. They include
 - Free software (opensource, freeware, or redistributable and fully working shareware)
 - MUI Language Packs for XP if you’ve provided the English version;
 - Lots of drivers for your hardware to be identified and installed;
 - Latest patches from Microsoft WindowsUpdate;
 - Latest available Service Pack.
- ⇒ Update your i386 sources with the latest Service Pack, so it is installed without needing to be applied again;
- ⇒ Prepare response files for a fully-unattended Windows installation;
- ⇒ Integrate everything into a [Your Output Folder]\DVD.iso file;
- ⇒ Burn the ISO.

VIII. What is next...

Once your DVD is ready, you can boot it anywhere and get Windows installed well, and automatically. To use the DVD, you do not need any Internet connection.

Read the “Using your SysAngel DVD” document to get familiar with the graphical interface.