

PKIF OCSP Plug-in for Microsoft Windows

Installation and Configuration

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CYGNACOM
S O L U T I O N S

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Table of Contents

1	Introduction.....	4
2	Installation.....	4
3	Configuration	8
4	Centralized configuration	10
5	Configuration Strategies	11
6	Customizing the OCSP Plug-in Installer	14
6.1	Base Installation File Selection	14
6.2	Transform File Identification	15
6.3	Configure OCSP Plug-in PKI Settings	16
6.4	Configure Logging.....	17
6.5	Generate transform.....	18

Table of Tables

Table 1	Installation features	4
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Table of Figures

Figure 1	PKIF OCSP Plug-in Setup.....	5
Figure 2	End-User License Agreement.....	6
Figure 3	Setup Type selection	6
Figure 4	PKIF OCSP Plug-in Installation	8
Figure 5	PKIF OCSP Configuration Utility	9
Figure 6	Logging Configuration	10
Figure 7	Default crypto settings for the PKIF OCSP Plug-in	11
Figure 8	Default repository settings for the PKIF OCSP Plug-in	12
Figure 9	Default Path settings for the PKIF OCSP Plug-in	13
Figure 10	Default Installation File Selection.....	15
Figure 11	Transform file identification.....	16
Figure 12	OCSP Plug-in customization	17
Figure 13	OCSP Plug-in logging customization	18
Figure 14	Transform file generation	19

1 Introduction

The PKIF OCSP Plug-in for Microsoft Windows is a revocation provider for the Microsoft Cryptographic API (CAPI). Applications that obtain basic PKI functionality from CAPI will call the PKIF OCSP Plug-in when validating a certificate. Many commonly used applications, such as Outlook, Internet Explorer and Infopath, use CAPI for PKI-related processing. The plug-in is installed using a basic Microsoft Installer (.msi file). A customization wizard is provided to produce transform files (.mst files) that can be used to produce installation packages tailored for a specific environment.

2 Installation

The PKIF OCSP Plug-in for Microsoft Windows is installed using a standard Windows installer. The installation package contains two features that may be installed, as described in the following table.

Table 1 Installation features

Feature	Description
PKIF OCSP Plug-in for Microsoft Windows	Contains the basic components that integrate with Microsoft CAPI to provide revocation status determination capabilities. This feature is mandatory.
PKIF OCSP Plug-in Customization Wizard	Contains a deployment utility that can be used to create customized installation packages.

The **Typical** feature set includes PKIF OCSP Plug-in for Microsoft Windows. Other features may be installed or not installed, as desired. The default installation package can be customized as described in [Section 6](#).

To begin plug-in installation, double-click the PkifPkifOcsPlugin.msi file. The following dialog will be displayed. Click the **Next** button.



Figure 1 PKIF OCSP Plug-in Setup

By default, the plug-in is installed to the following directory:

C:\Program Files\Cygnacom Solutions\PKIF OCSP Plug-in for Microsoft Windows\.

Accept the terms in the License Agreement, and then click the **Next** button.

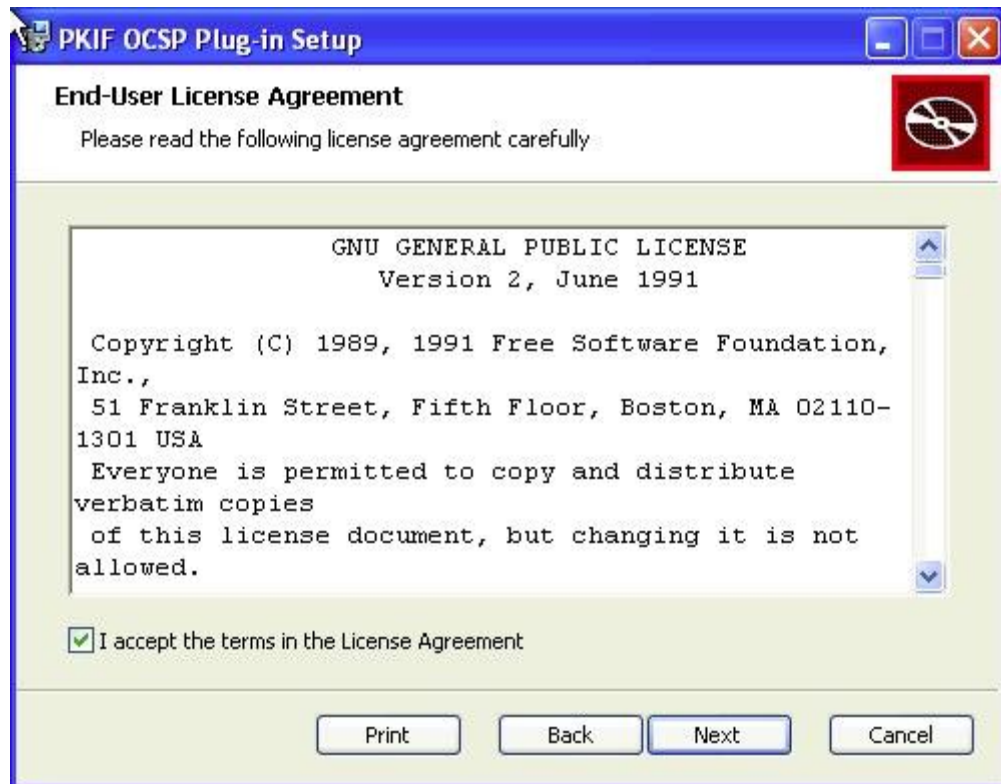


Figure 2 End-User License Agreement

Click the **Typical** button for typical configuration on the third dialog.

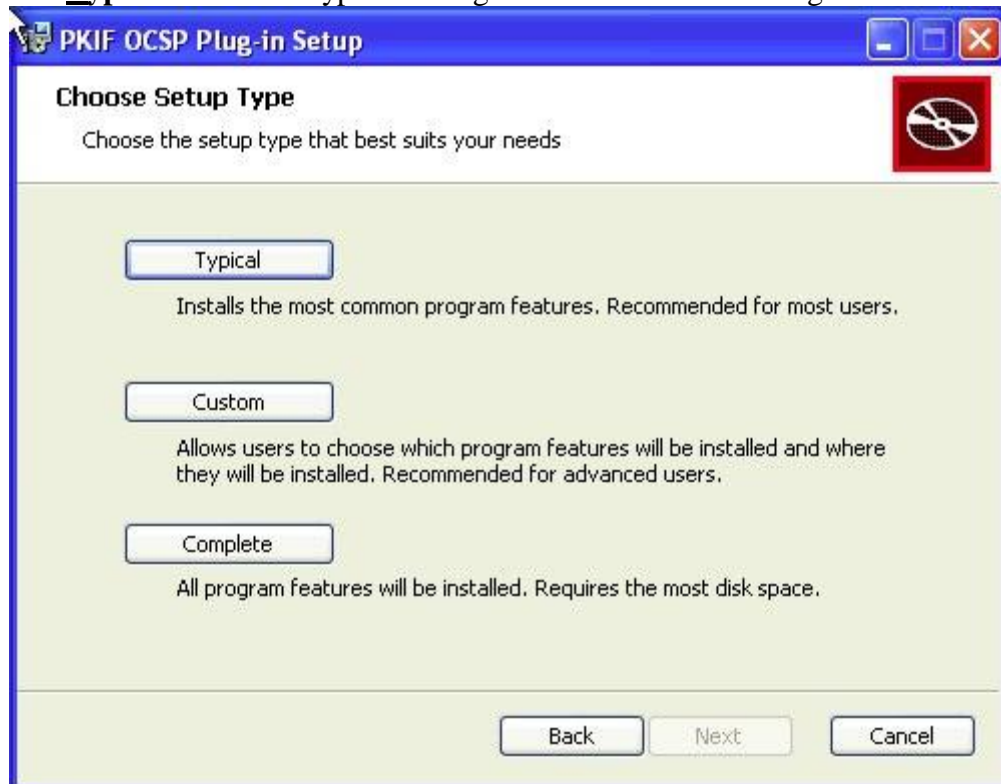


Figure 3 Setup Type selection

Click **C**ustom for custom configuration. In Custom Setup dialog PKIF OCSP Plug-in Customization Wizard feature can be selected to be installed and default installation location can be changed. Click the **N**ext button to proceed.

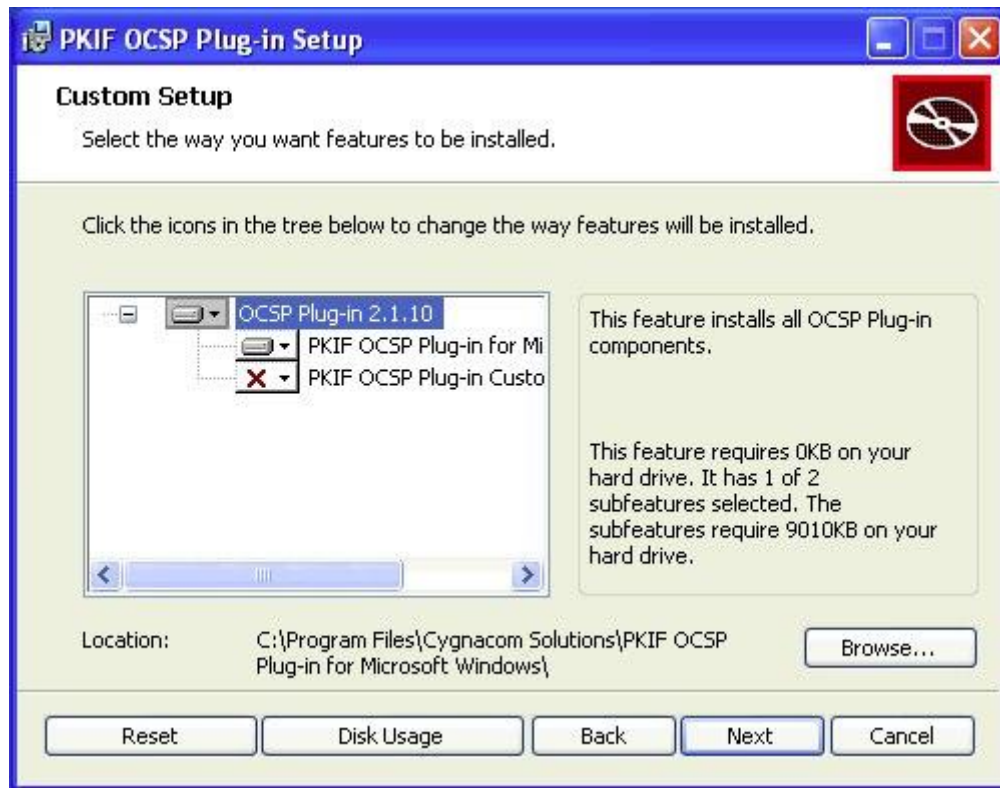


Figure 4 Custom Setup

To complete the installation, click the **I**nstall button. This will copy the plug-in files to the selected file folder, set up the default registry configuration and register the plug-in with Microsoft CAPI.

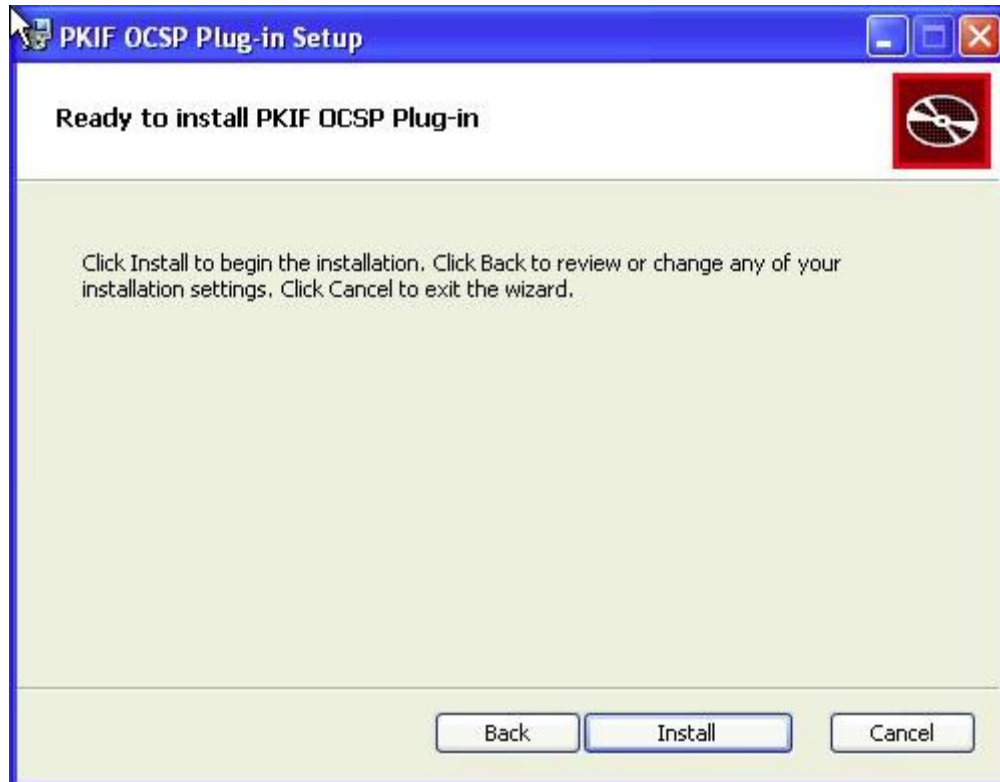


Figure 5 PKIF OCSP Plug-in Installation

After the installation completes, click the **Finish** button (not shown). Close and restart any applications that use CAPI for PKI processing in order for the plug-in to be used.

3 Configuration

The PKIF OCSP Plug-in installer will prepare a default set of configuration options that features the following options:

- Retrieve trust anchors, certificates and CRLs from the current user's CAPI certificate and CRL stores
- Use CAPI for cryptographic functionality
- Retrieve certificates and CRLs from LDAP and HTTP URIs included in issuerAltName, crlDistributionPoint or authorityInformationAccess certificate extensions
- Retrieve revocation status information from OCSP responders identified in authorityInformationAccess certificate extensions (responder certificates will be validated to a trust anchor in the current user's trust anchor store)

A configuration utility is provided with the plug-in to enable the default configuration to be changed. The OCSP Plug-in Configuration panel of the utility is shown below.



Figure 6 PKIF OCSP Configuration Utility

Usage of the PKI Environment Definition and Path Processing Definition options is described in [**Configuring PKI Settings Using PKIFv2 Resources**](#). The Status option can be used to register and unregister the plug-in with Microsoft CAPI. Following installation, the button should read **Disable**, as shown above. The plug-in can be unregistered by clicking the **Disable** button. After unregistering the plug-in, the button should be labeled **Enable** and can be used to register the plug-in with Microsoft CAPI. In this release, the **Configuration applies to all users** checkbox is checked and disabled. Settings apply to all users on a particular machine. Future versions may enable per-user configuration.

The plug-in provides various logging capabilities that can be used to troubleshoot problems with the plug-in or infrastructure problems. The Logging Configuration panel is shown below.

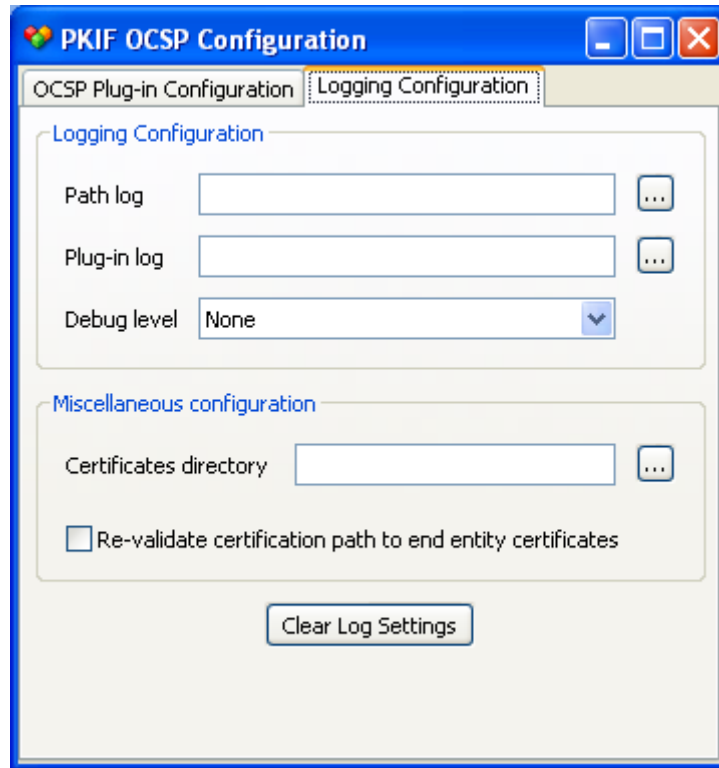


Figure 7 Logging Configuration

By default, logging is turned off by setting the **Debug level** option to **None**. The following debug levels are available, in order from least amount of output to most output” **None, Error, Information, Warning, Debug** and **Trace**. Most output is written to the file specified in the **Plug-in log** option. When the **Re-validate certification path to end entity certificates** option is checked, certification path result information is written to the file specified by the **Path log** parameter. When the **Re-validate certification path to end entity certificates** option is checked, the plug-in will perform full certification path processing for non-certification authority certificates. This can result in rejection of certificates that otherwise would have been accepted. If a folder is specified for the **Certificates directory** option, the plug-in will write out most certificates it handles during the course of determining the revocation status of a particular certificate (certificates used to verify the revocation status of a CRL issuer or OCSF responder may not be output). Certificates are written to a file named using a SHA1 hash of the certificate, as follows: <certificate thumbprint>.der. Clicking the **Clear Log Settings** button will reset the logging parameters to the values shown above.

Note, the debugging logs grow without bounds. These features should be activated only when trying to diagnose a problem and should be disabled during normal use.

4 Centralized configuration

Configuration settings for the plug-in are written to the following registry location:

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Cygnacom Solutions\OCSFPlugin.

The values under this location can be captured by an administrator and distributed using an enterprise-wide configuration management tool, such as SMS or Group Policy, or by creating a custom installation package. The PKIF OCSP Plug-in Configuration utility is primarily intended for use by administrators in defining settings that will be distributed across an enterprise. The plug-in will recognize per-user settings that reside in the same location under HKEY_CURRENT_USER, but the configuration utility cannot be used to manage these settings.

5 Configuration Strategies

The PKIF OCSP Plug-in can be configured to perform revocation status determination, or certification path processing, a number of different ways. By default, following installation, the plug-in is configured to provide revocation status for all certificates containing an AIA extension with an OCSP component. The figures below shows these default settings (all fields on the two panels not shown are blank).

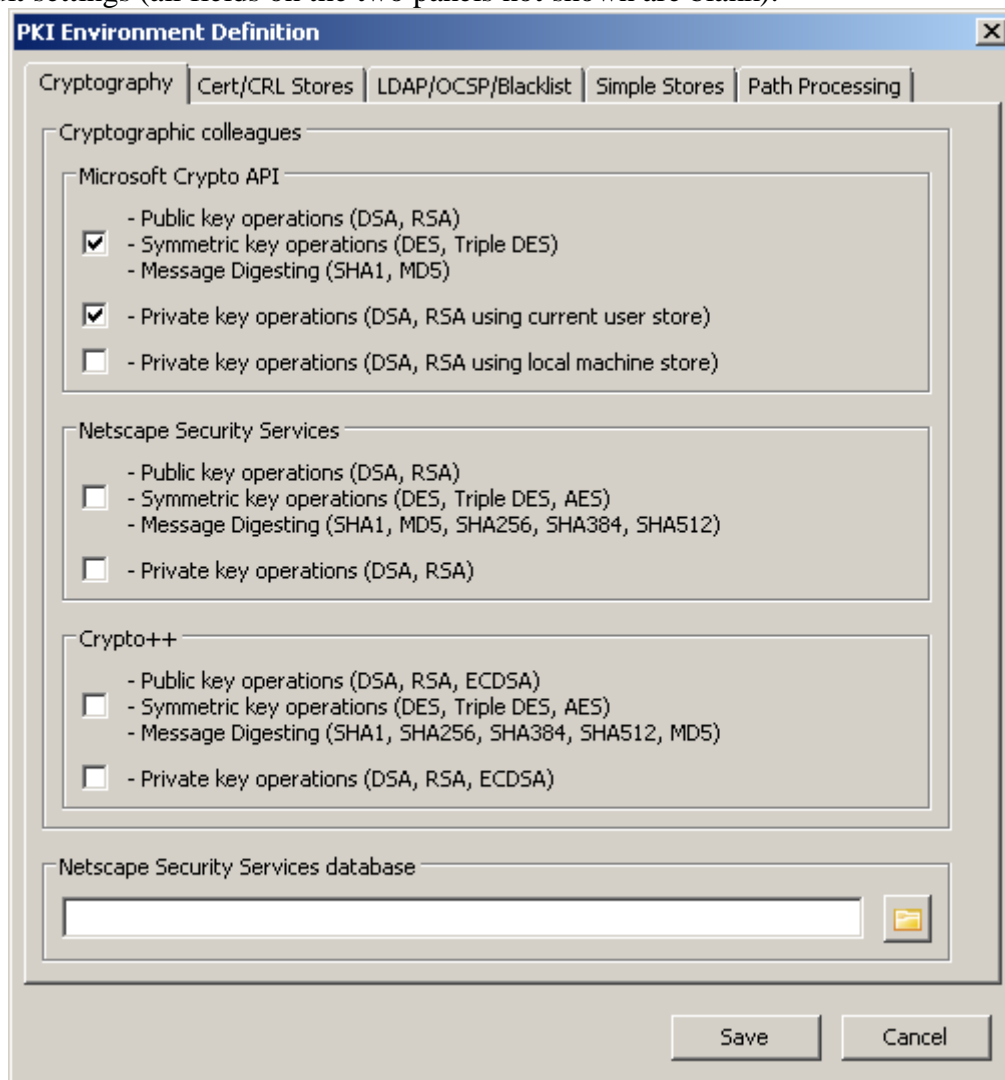


Figure 8 Default crypto settings for the PKIF OCSP Plug-in

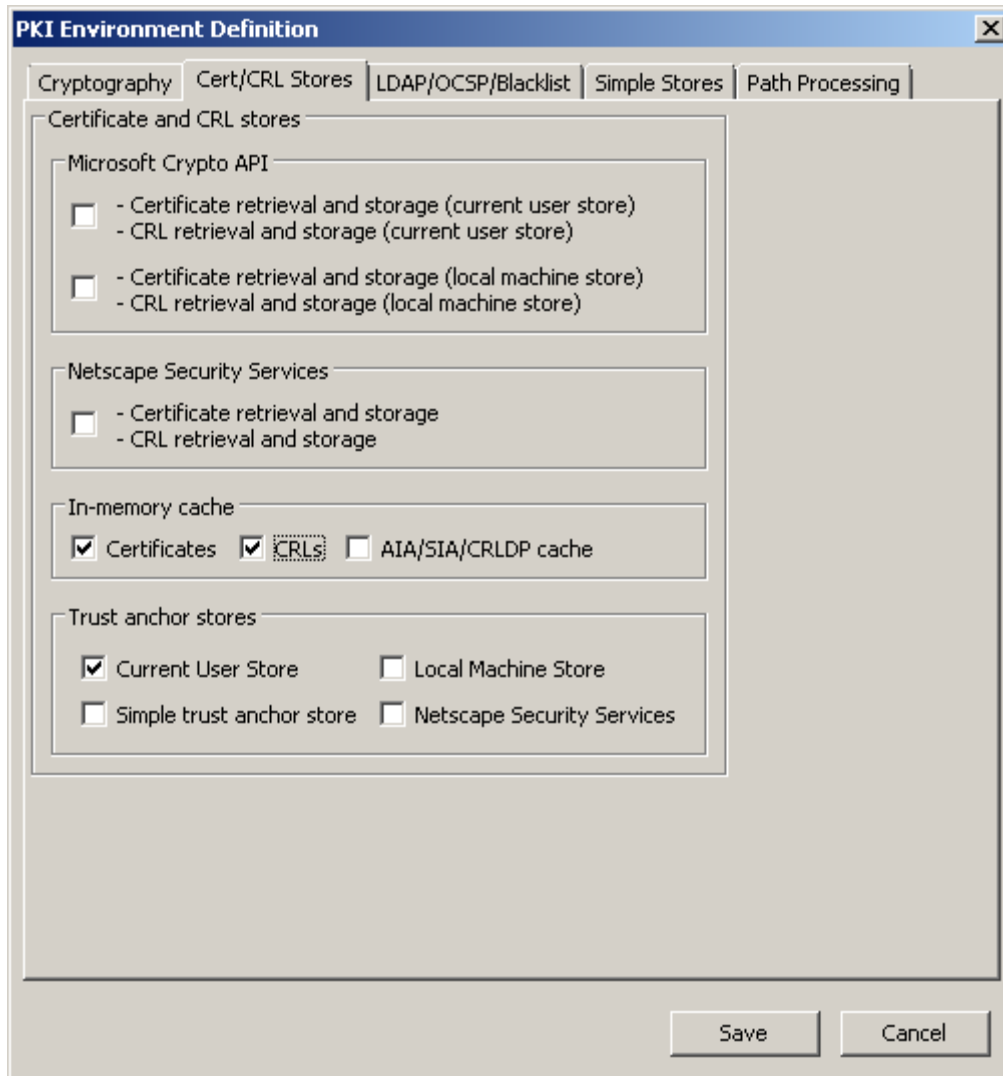


Figure 9 Default repository settings for the PKIF OCSP Plug-in

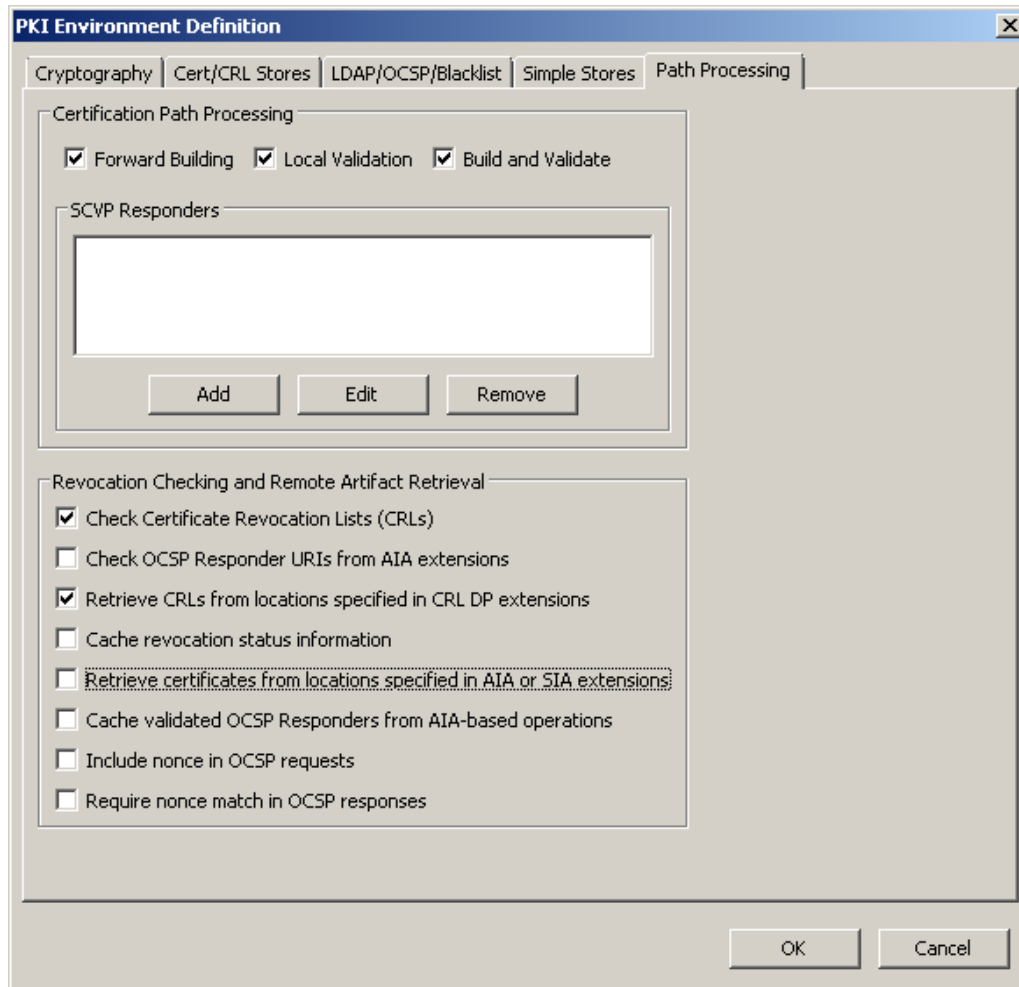


Figure 10 Default Path settings for the PKIF OCSF Plug-in

Usage of the PKI Environment Definition and Path Processing Definition options is described in **Configuring PKI Settings Using PKIFv2 Resources**. There are several broad configuration strategies to consider when deploying the plug-in, including:

- AIA-based OCSF only (the default configuration)
- AIA-based OCSF and CRL DP-based CRLs
- AIA-based OCSF, CRL DP-based CRLs and CRLs from an enterprise directory
- OCSF from an enterprise OCSF responder only
- OCSF from an enterprise OCSF responder and AIA OCSF
- OCSF from an enterprise OCSF responder, AIA-based OCSF and CRL DP-based CRLs
- OCSF from an enterprise OCSF responder, AIA-based OCSF, CRL DP-based CRLs and CRLs from an enterprise directory

Multiple enterprise directories or OCSF responders can be specified, with each providing service for specific namespaces, if desired.

6 Customizing the OCSP Plug-in Installer

The PKIF OCSP Plug-in is installed using a Microsoft Windows Installer package named PkifOcsPlugin.msi. This installer performs basic installation activities including copying files, registration with the host operating system, establishing default configuration values, preparing shortcuts, etc. In some cases, additional configuration is required after using the default installation package before using OCSP Plug-in. For example, in some environments specification of an enterprise OCSP responder may be required. The OCSP Plug-in Customization Wizard can be used to generate a transform file that can be applied to the default installer to help avoid the need to perform manual configuration steps following installation.

The transform file generated by the customization wizard can be installed using the `msiexec` shown below:

```
msiexec /i <full path & filename of installer> TRANSFORMS=<full path & filename of transform>
```

Alternatively, the transform file can be applied to the base installation package using a tool like ORCA (<http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/aa370557%28VS.85%29.aspx>). This approach results in a single .msi file that can be distributed and used to install OCSP Plug-in with the desired customizations.

The following sections describe usage of the customization wizard. Prior to beginning a customization activity make sure to have collected the information identified below, i.e., OCSP responder addresses, LDAP-accessible directory addresses, namespaces for OCSP responders and LDAP-accessible directories, etc.

6.1 Base Installation File Selection

To launch the customization wizard, double-click the `OcsPluginCustomizationWizard.exe` file or select the `OcsPluginCustomizationWizard` shortcut from the Start Menu. The panel shown below will be displayed. Browse to the default `PkifOcsPlugin.msi` file then click the **Next** button.

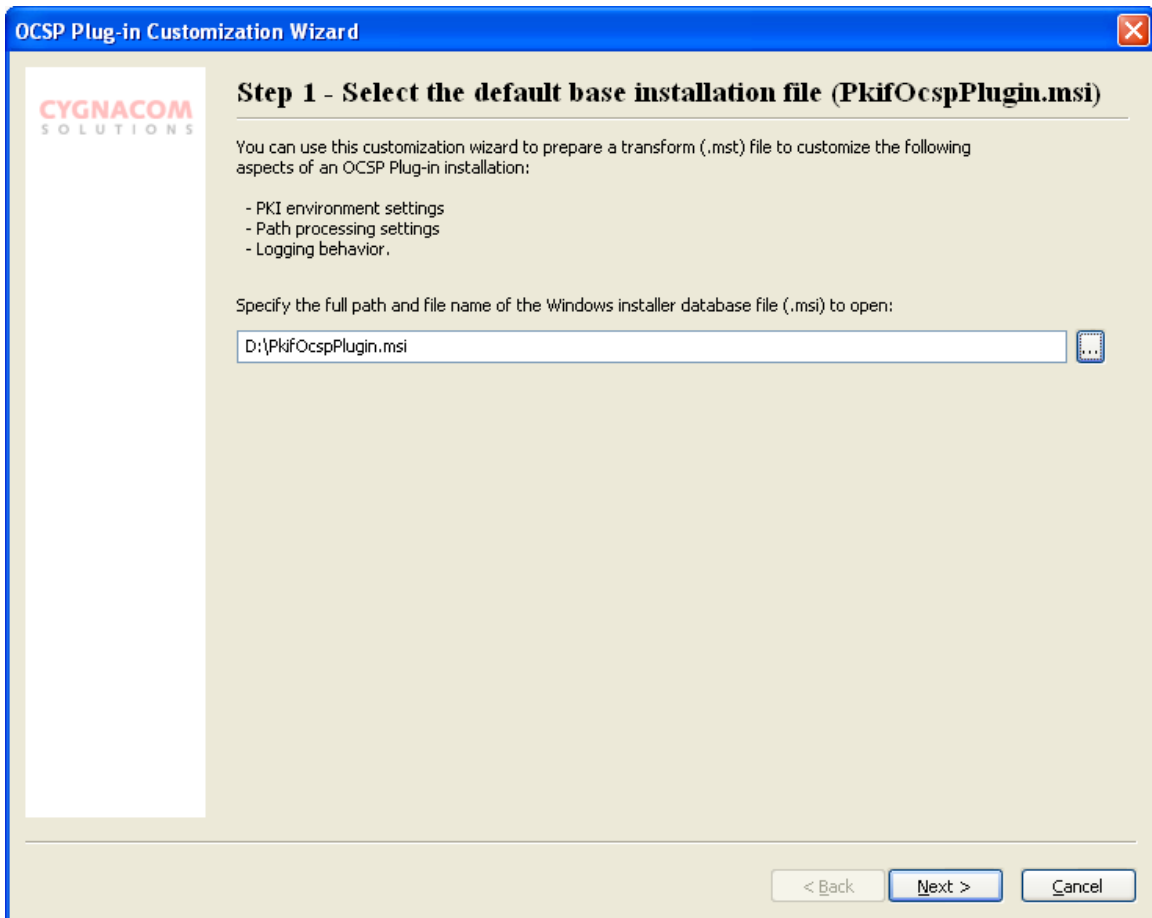


Figure 11 Default Installation File Selection

The MSI referenced on this panel must be the default PkifOcsfPlugin.msi. Editing transformed MSI files is not supported in this release.

6.2 Transform File Identification

The settings specified using the OCSF Plug-in Customization Wizard will be saved as a transform file (.mst). Browse to the location where the transform file should be saved and provide a filename, as shown below.

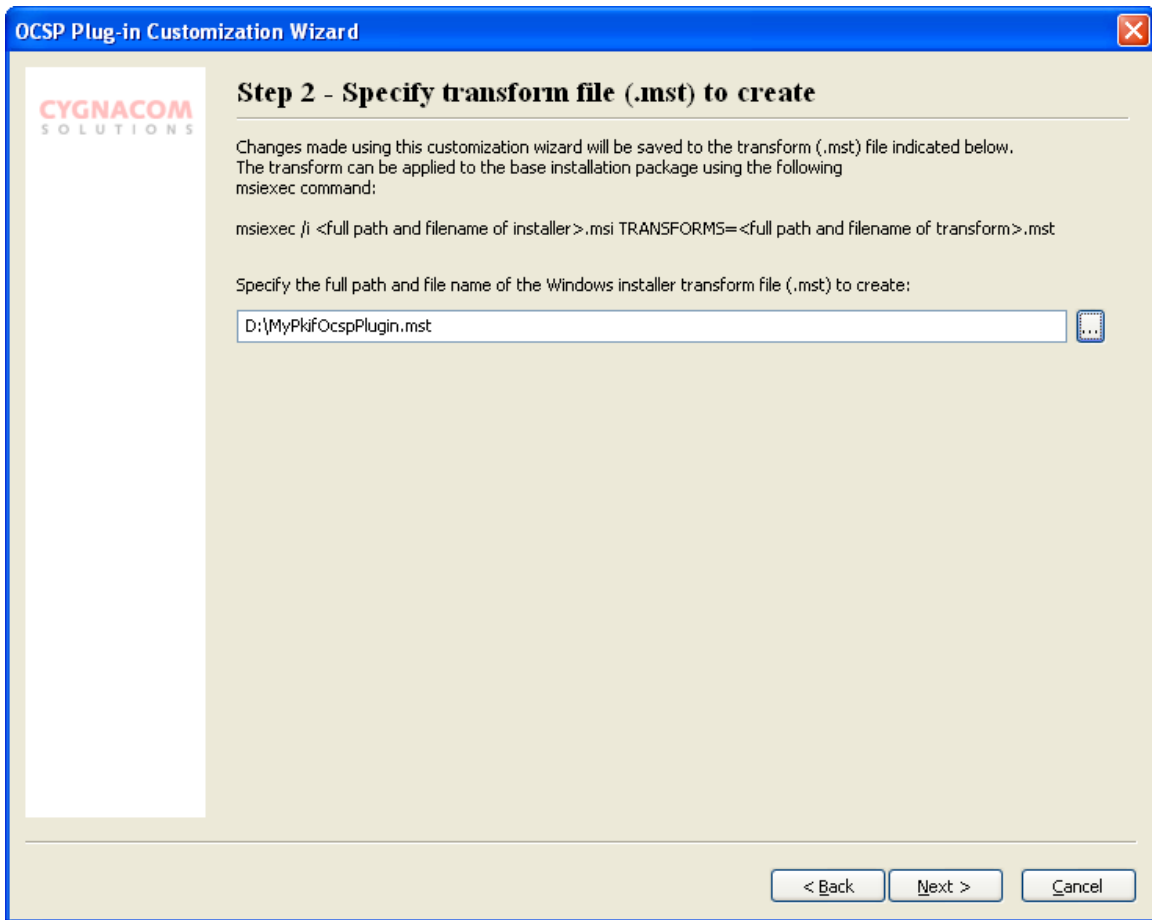


Figure 12 Transform file identification

6.3 Configure OCSF Plug-in PKI Settings

OCSF Plug-in PKI settings can be configured using a panel similar to the interface of the OCSF Plug-in Configuration Utility.

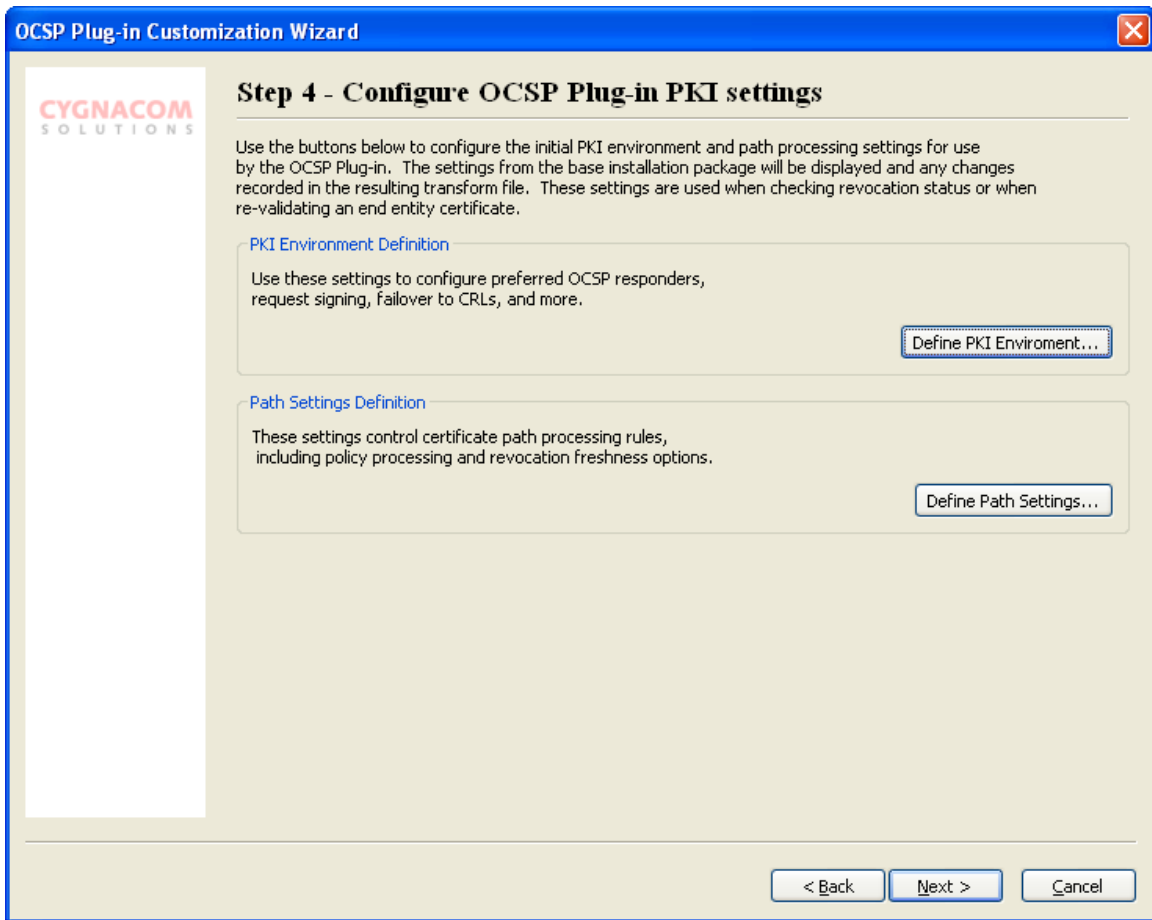


Figure 13 OCSF Plug-in customization

6.4 Configure Logging

OCSF Plug-in logging settings can be configured using a panel similar to the interface of the OCSF Plug-in Configuration Utility.

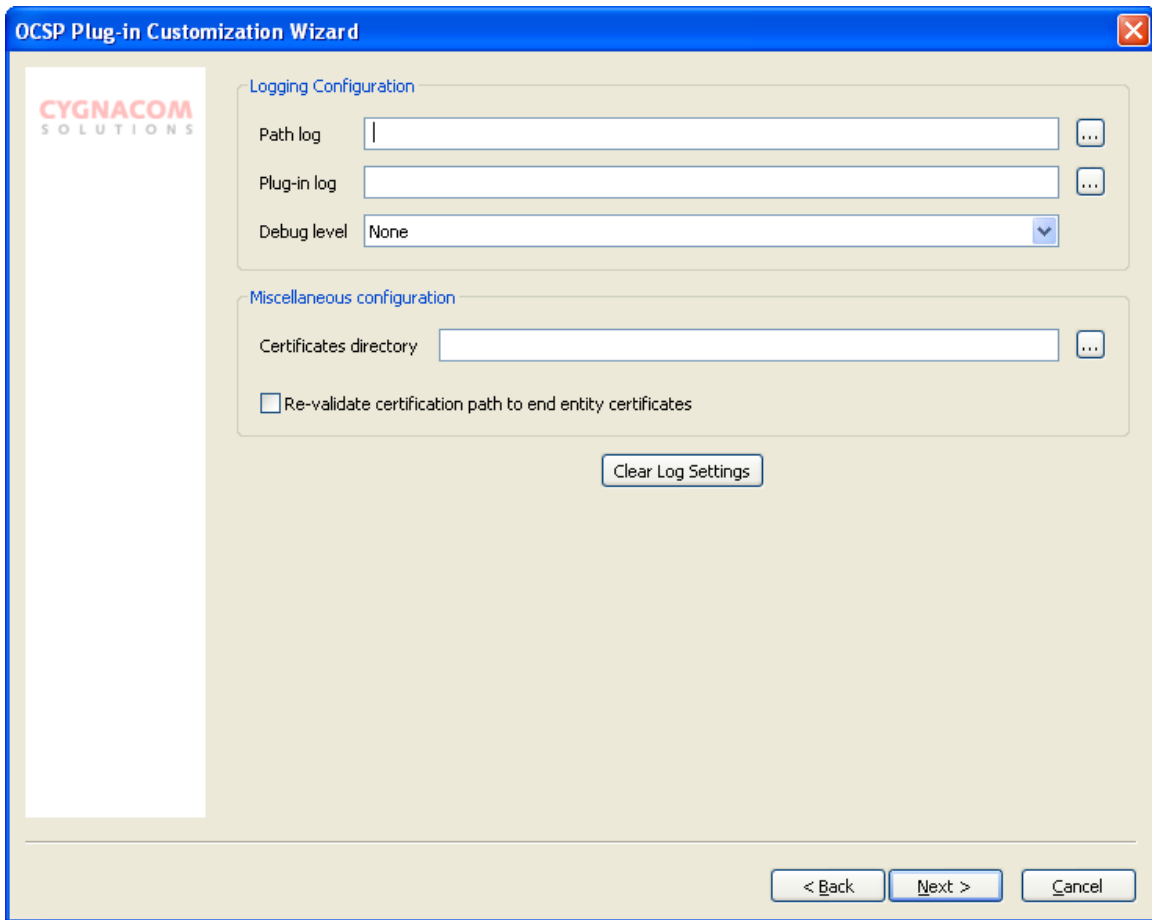


Figure 14 OCSF Plug-in logging customization

6.5 Generate transform

The last step is to generate the specified transform file to include the settings configured through execution of the customization wizard. The command used to apply the transforms using msisexec is shown on the final panel, as shown below, in a form that allows copy and paste. Click the **Finish** button to generate the transform file.

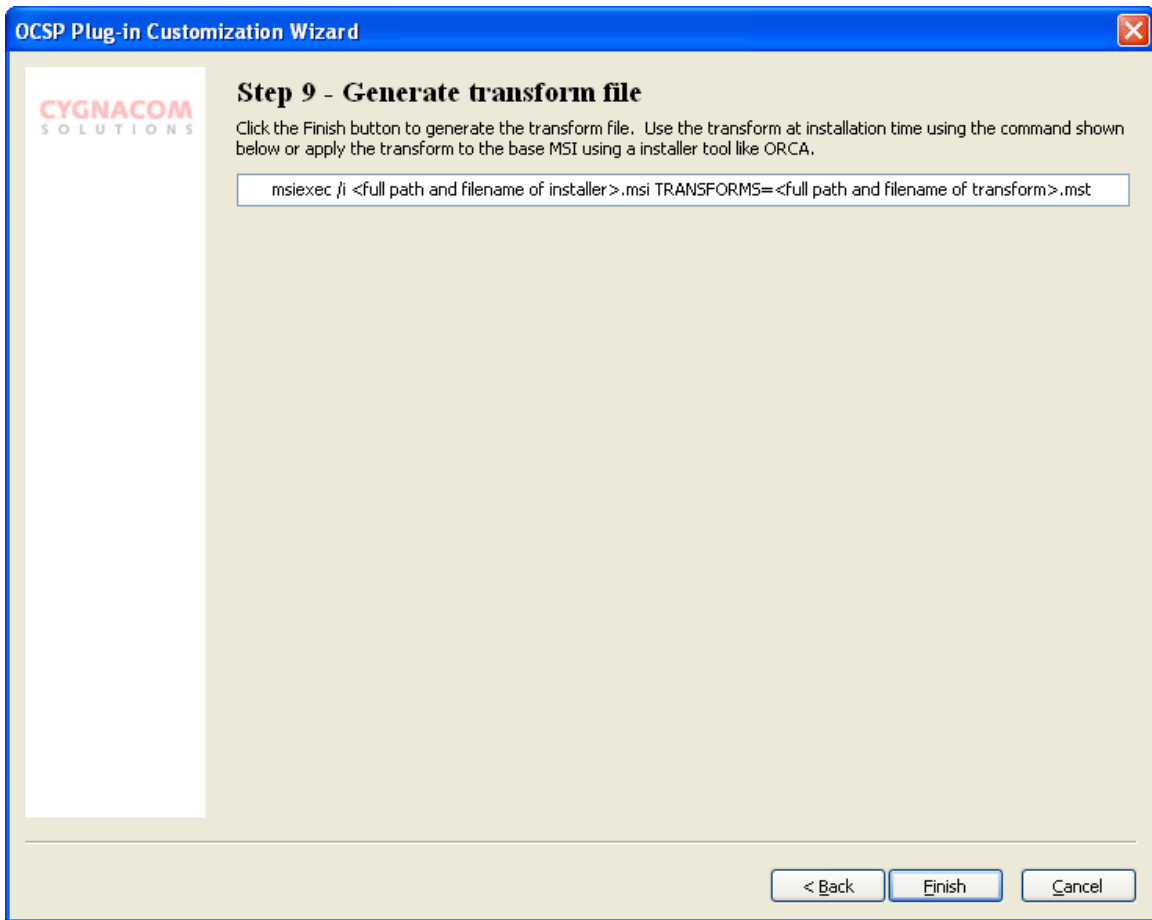


Figure 15 Transform file generation