

InstallAnywhere Tip: Custom Variables and Response Files

By Robert Dickau, Principal Technical Training Writer

InstallAnywhere variables used in many standard actions are automatically written to a response file or installer log. Beginning with InstallAnywhere 2008 Value Pack 1, you can use the **ReplayVariableService** class to control if and how variables used in your custom code action classes are included in a response file. The **ReplayVariableService** class contains a **register** method, which accepts a variable name or array of names and title, where the title is a section name listed in the response file.

For example, including the following code in the install method of a custom code action class registers a custom variable called **\$MYVAR\$** to be written to the response file when the user runs **install -r**:

```
// ip is the InstallerProxy argument passed to the install method
ReplayVariableService rvs =
    (ReplayVariableService)ip.getService(ReplayVariableService.class);
rvs.register("$MYVAR$", "Custom variables");
```

When the user generates a response file with **install -r**, the corresponding section of the response file appears similar to the following, with the text “Custom variables” being taken from the second argument to **register**:

```
#Custom variables
#-----
MYVAR=User changed this value...
```

In addition, the **ReplayVariableService** class contains methods for indicating that a variable’s value should be excluded or encrypted in the response file. For more information, see the InstallAnywhere javadoc API documentation.