# *Armstrong Powerhouse Auto Updater*

- ChiefJack -

# MANUAL V1.0.3

# Contents

AP Auto Updater Overview ..... 3
First Time Use ..... 4
Using the Tool to Update Packs ..... 7
Changelog ..... 11
Credits ..... 11



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# AP Auto Updater Overview

Thank you for downloading this utility tool from On Track Simulation. If you have any suggestions for improvements or encounter any issues, please fill out this Google Form. Also, feel free to message me on Facebook: Jack Hales, or Discord: chiefjack__

This utility tool was created in response to comments under AP Facebook posts in which people were complaining about the amount of redownloads they need to do due to AP Packs being improved and updated.

In simple terms, this tool will login to your AP account, index all of your purchased AP products, check to see if any have been updated since you last installed them, and if that is the case, it will download and install them without you having to do anything.

For this tool to run, you will require the latest version of Google Chrome available here. IT IS ALSO HIGHLY RECOMMENDED THAT YOU DISABLE YOUR ANTI-VIRUS SOFTWARE AS IT IS PRONE TO REMOVING AP EXECUTABLE FILES WHEN YOU TRY TO RUN THEM.

The following pages will detail how to use this tool and get the most benefit from it. There is also a video tutorial available to watch here.

This program has been released with the permission of Armstrong Powerhouse but they do not endorse it and are not liable for any mishaps arising from its use.

DISCLAIMER: We cannot be held responsible for any damage that this tool causes to your installation, nor is it in any way affiliated with Armstrong Powerhouse and must be considered as a wholly third party creation. It is ESSENTIAL to read the manual before attempting to use this tool, and it is advisable to have your anti-virus software disabled. Please only download and use this tool if you are happy to do this.



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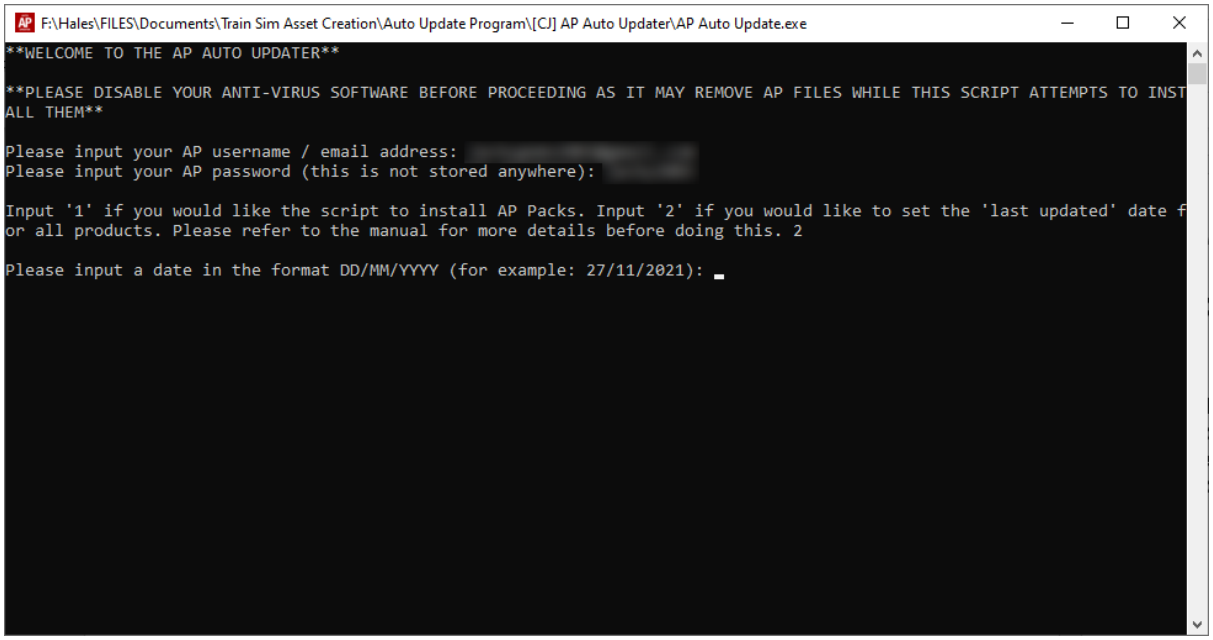
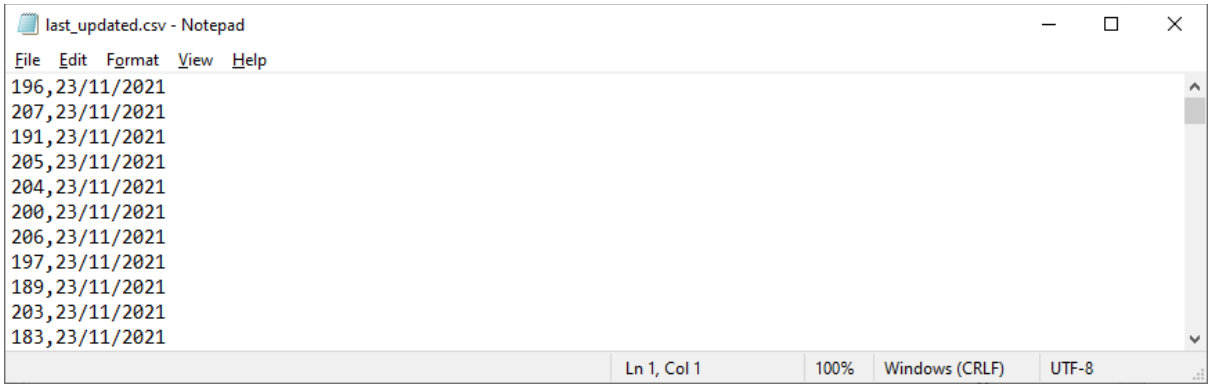
# First Time Use

If this is the first time running the tool, it won't have indexed your AP products and thus won't work. When you run the tool for the first time, after entering your AP account details (these are not stored or sent anywhere), please type *2* and press ENTER. You will then be presented with a screen like this:




Next, input a date in the given format (DD/MM/YYYY). Press ENTER to submit the date. Failure to input a date in the correct format will cause the tool to fail. If you input the date in the wrong format or wish to change the date, you can re-run the program and follow the same steps.

After inputting a date, the tool will index all of your AP products and set their last updated date to the date you inputted. This data is then stored in a file called *last_updated.csv*. You can use Notepad to open this file. An example *last_updated.csv* file is shown below:



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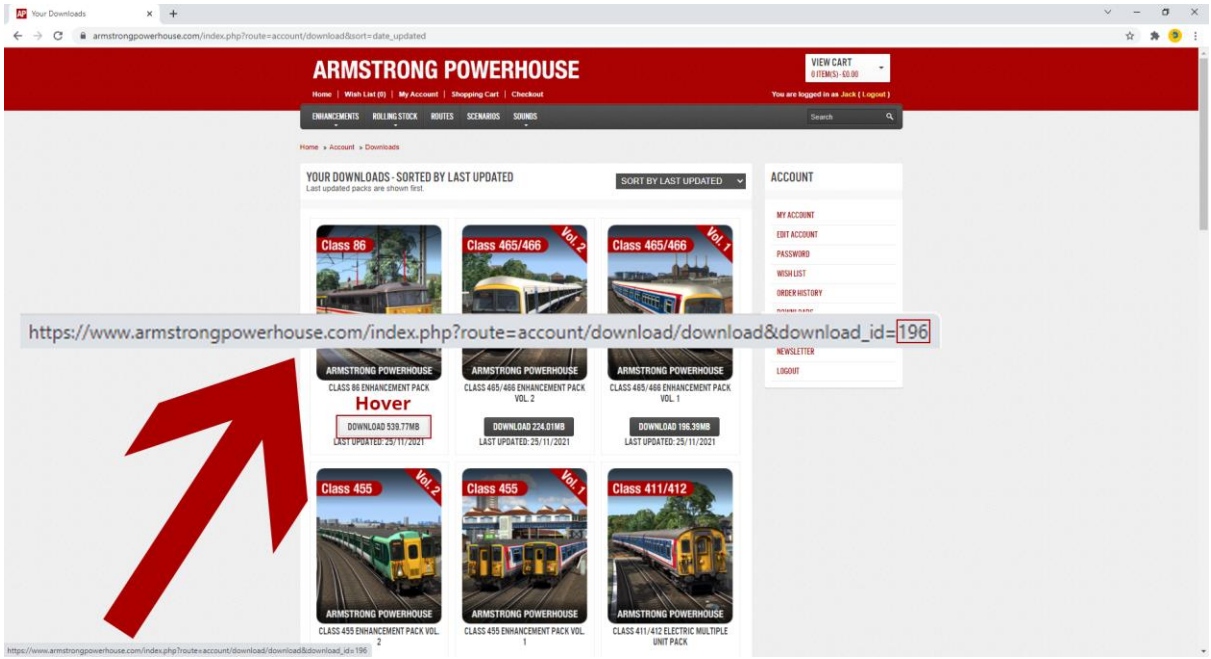
The file lists all of your purchased AP products, including discontinued products such as Scenario Packs and Sound Packs superseded by Enhancement Packs. Therefore, it is recommended that you follow the next steps to remove products from the list that you don't wish to be installed. Each line in the file represents one AP product. If we take the top line for example:

# 196,23/11/2021

196 is the product ID.

23/11/2021 is the last updated date.

Note that a single comma (,) separates the two values, and that there are no spaces. To find which product corresponds with which product ID, go to the AP Downloads page here. When you hover over a download button for a product, the link to the product download will appear in the bottom left corner. The product ID is at the end of the link, as shown in the example below:




It is highly recommended that you go through the downloads page of your AP account and find the product IDs of any products you don't wish to be installed or updated. For example, the Class 455 Sound Pack has been superseded by the Class 455 Enhancement Pack Vol.1 and Vol.2, so I don't want it downloaded. I would find the download for the Class 455 Sound Pack and get its product ID which is 122. I would then go to *last_updated.csv* and find product ID 122. I would then remove the line and save the file, as shown by the following screenshots:



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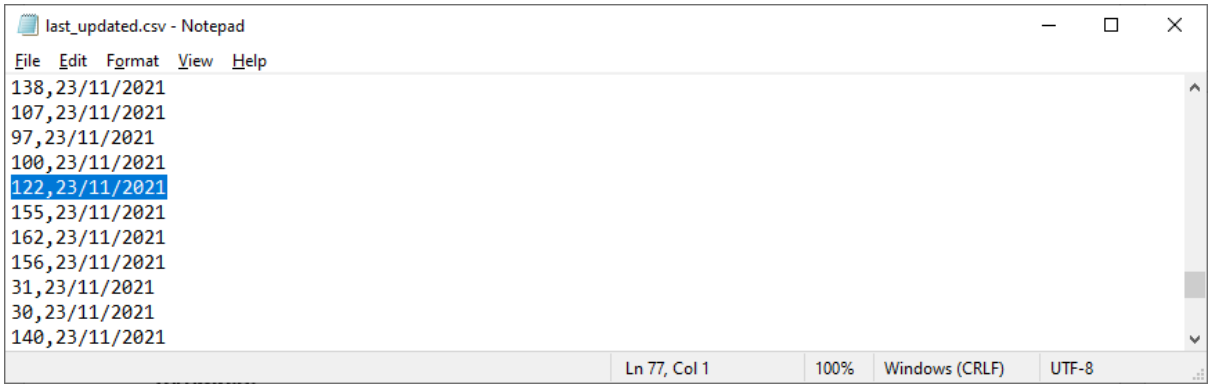


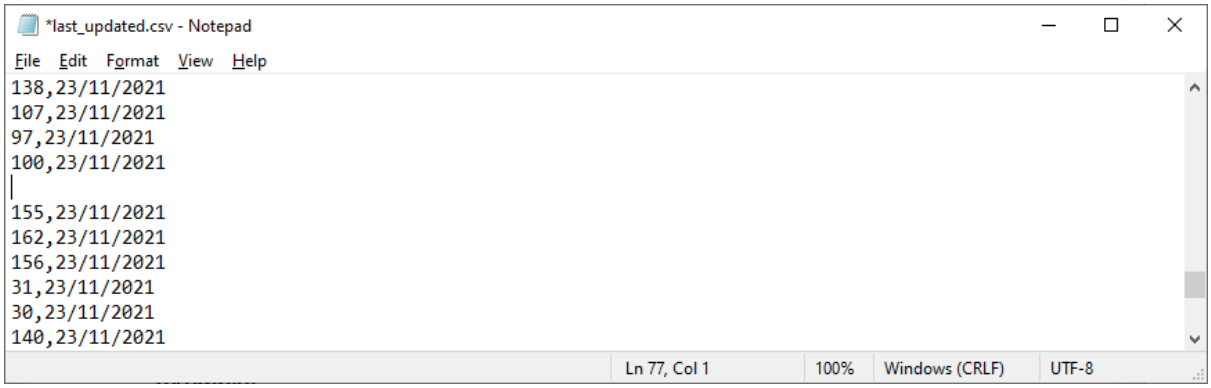


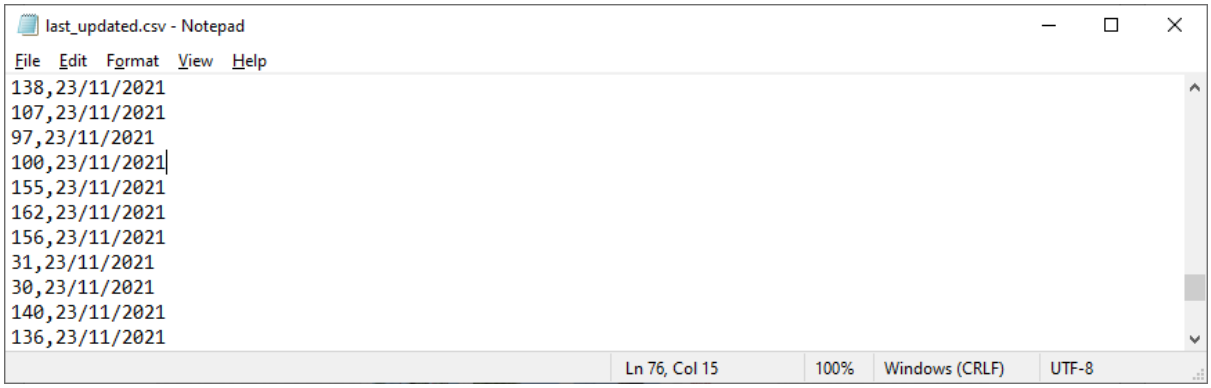


Repeat this for all AP products which you don't wish to be installed.

You can also choose to change the last updated date should you wish to, but please ensure the date format of DD/MM/YYYY is retained.

Once you are happy that the *last_updated.csv* file only contains products you want installed, and you are happy with the date it says they were last updated on, you are ready to start updating packs.

I recommend taking a backup of this file so you can use it every time you need a reinstall of all AP Packs, as the tool will update the dates of products when you install AP Packs using this tool.

When you purchase new AP Packs, you need to manually add them to *last_updated.csv* on a new line, using the same DD/MM/YYYY format. This functionality may get added to the program in a future update.



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# Using the Tool to Update Packs

This section details how to use the tool to update your AP Packs. There are shortened steps below, whilst the next page has more in-depth steps with screenshots. It's recommended that you read the in-depth steps if you are running the program for the first time, and then refer to the shortened steps when you have had more experience using the tool.

In short:

1) Open the program and sign in with your AP account details.
2) Type '1' and press ENTER.
3) Type '1' or '2' and press ENTER in answer to the questions.
   Choosing the fully automated option means the tool will do everything itself - you can sit back and relax.
   Choosing option 2 will mean you have to press ENTER for the tool to do things, such as starting to download products.
   Fully automated is recommended for the shortest install times as there is no human input required.
4) After choosing one of these options, the tool will start and download any products which have been updated since the last updated date in *last_updated.csv*.
5) Once all downloads are done, it will install the products. Then it will move onto Branding Patches and Extra Stock Packs if you chose to install them.
6) Once everything is done, scroll up through the program output to check for any errors. It may be that a pack hasn't installed for whatever reason - you'll need to download and install it manually.
7) To exit the tool, when prompted, press ENTER to close the browser, and then CTRL + C to close the exe.

Some older AP products have inconsistent name formatting for Branding Patches and Extra Stock Packs. Please let me know if any don't download and install and I'll try to add support for them. You can send me this information via the Google Form linked here.



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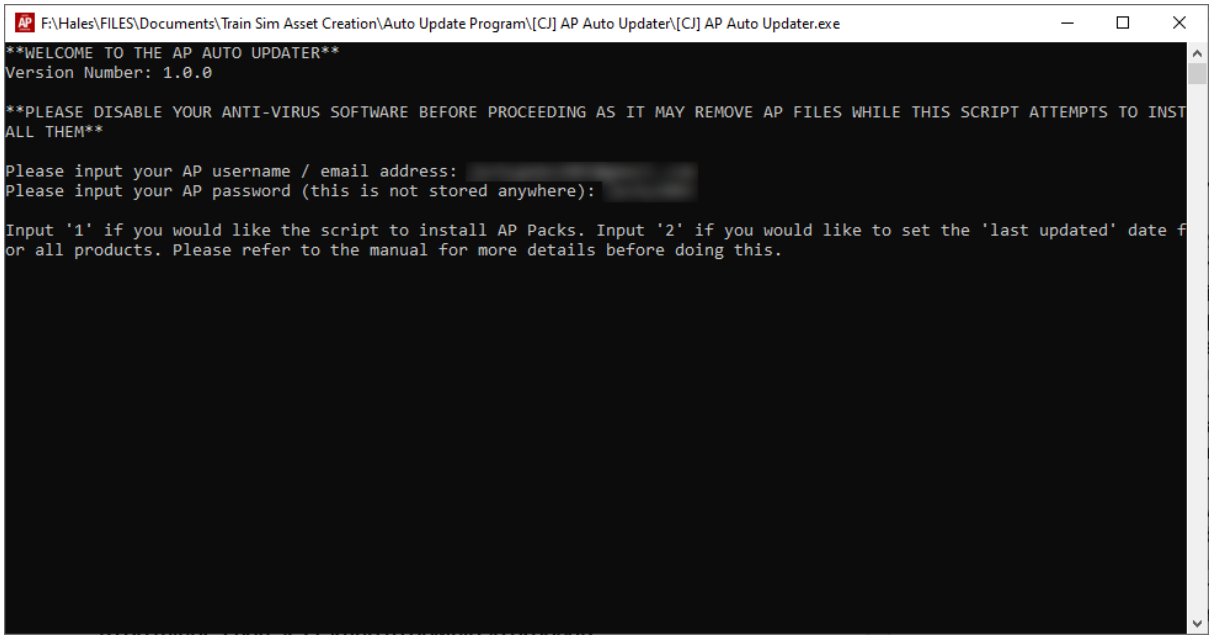
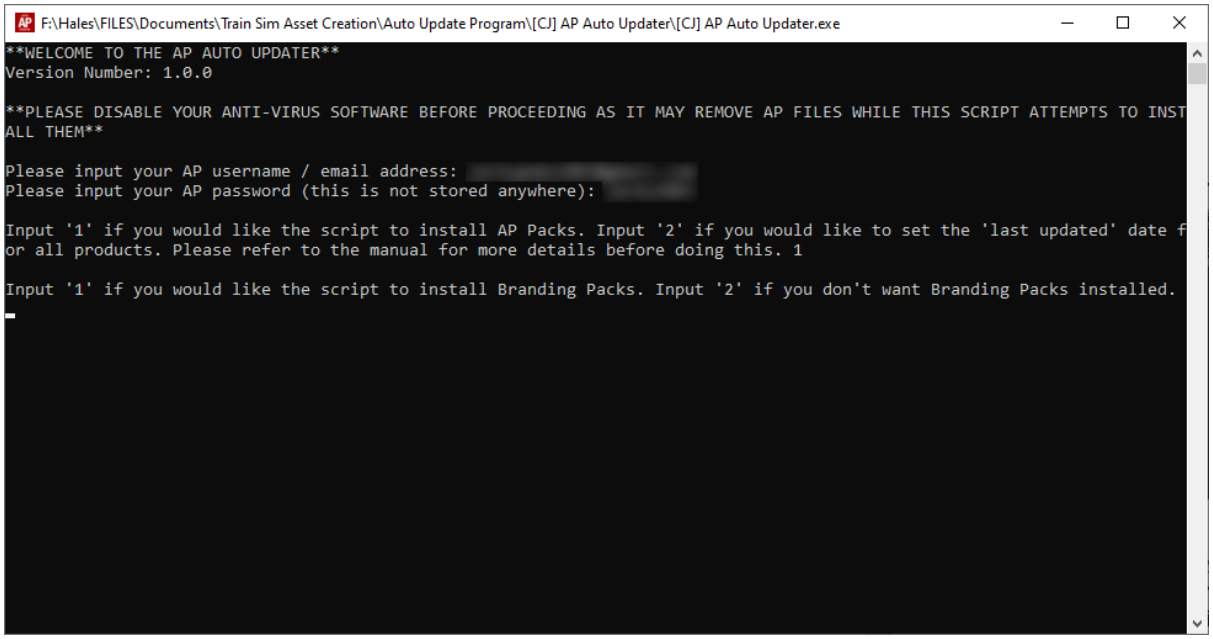
## In detail:

1) Open the program and sign in with your AP account details.




2) Type ‘1’ and press ENTER.




3) Type ‘1’ or ‘2’ and press ENTER in answer to the questions.
Choosing the fully automated option means the tool will do everything itself - you can sit back and relax.
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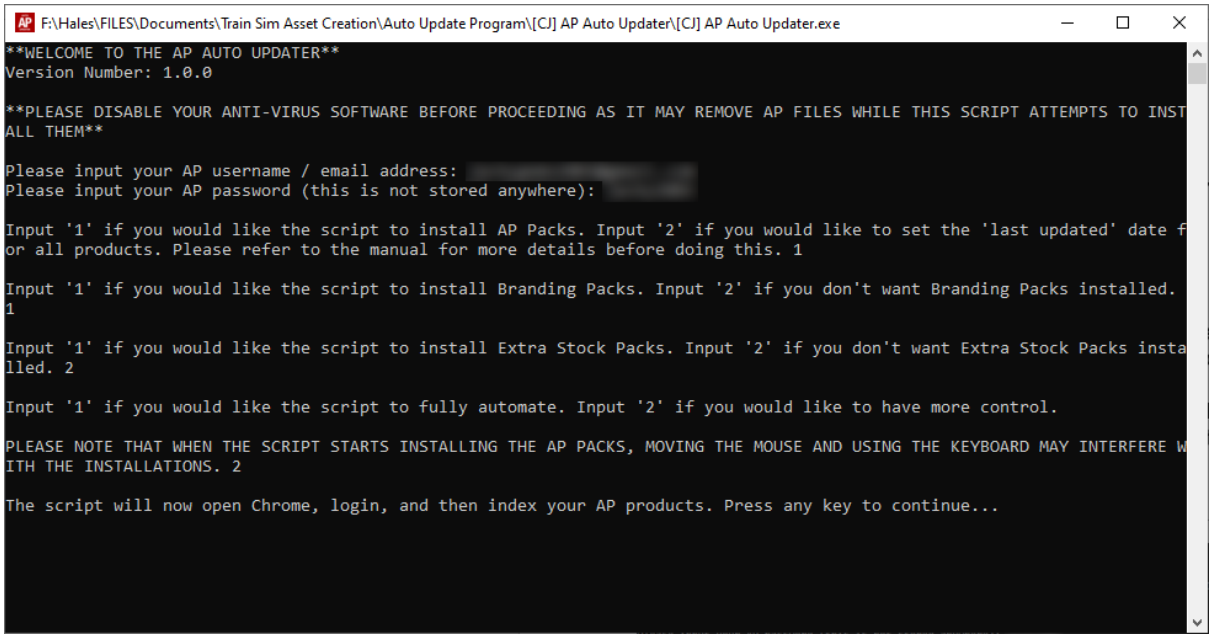
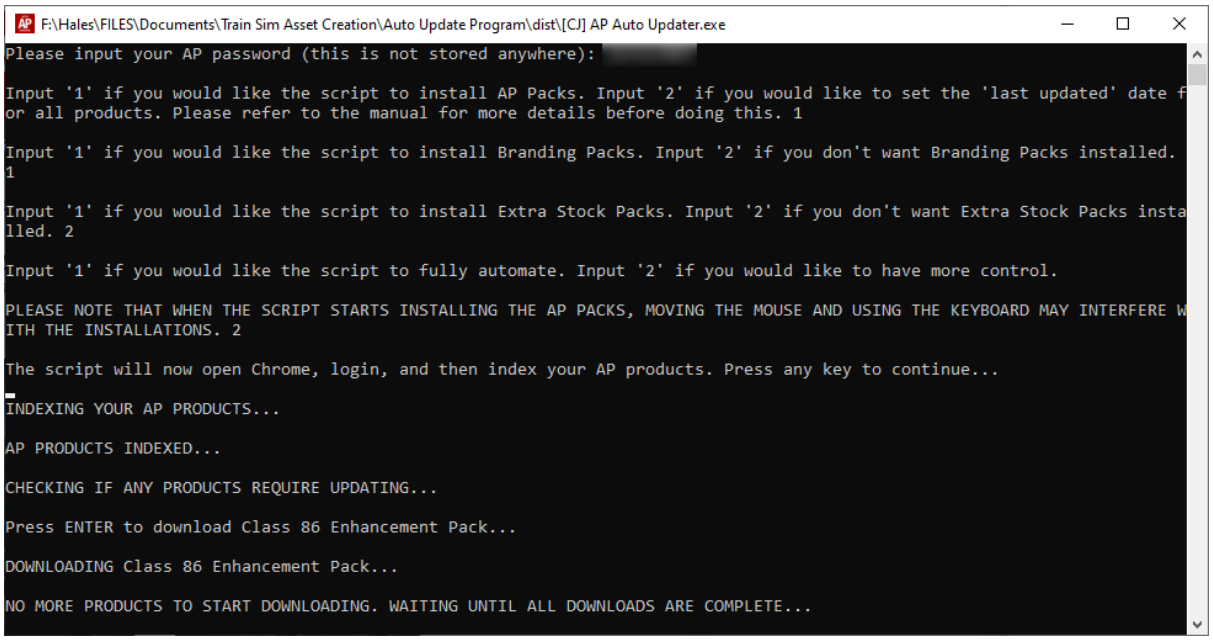



4) After choosing one of these options, the tool will start and download any products which have been updated since the last updated date in *last_updated.csv*. To do this, it will open Google Chrome and login to your account using the AP website. Then it will index all of your AP products and compare the last updated dates on the website with the ones in *last_updated.csv*. If there are any products which need updating, it will download them.



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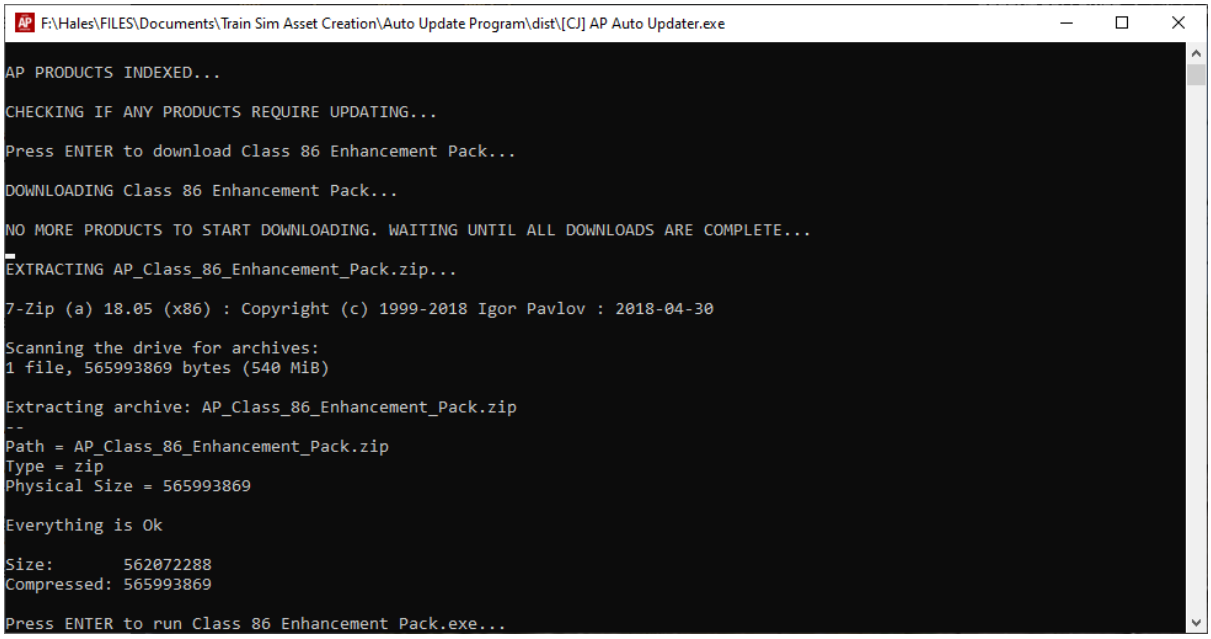
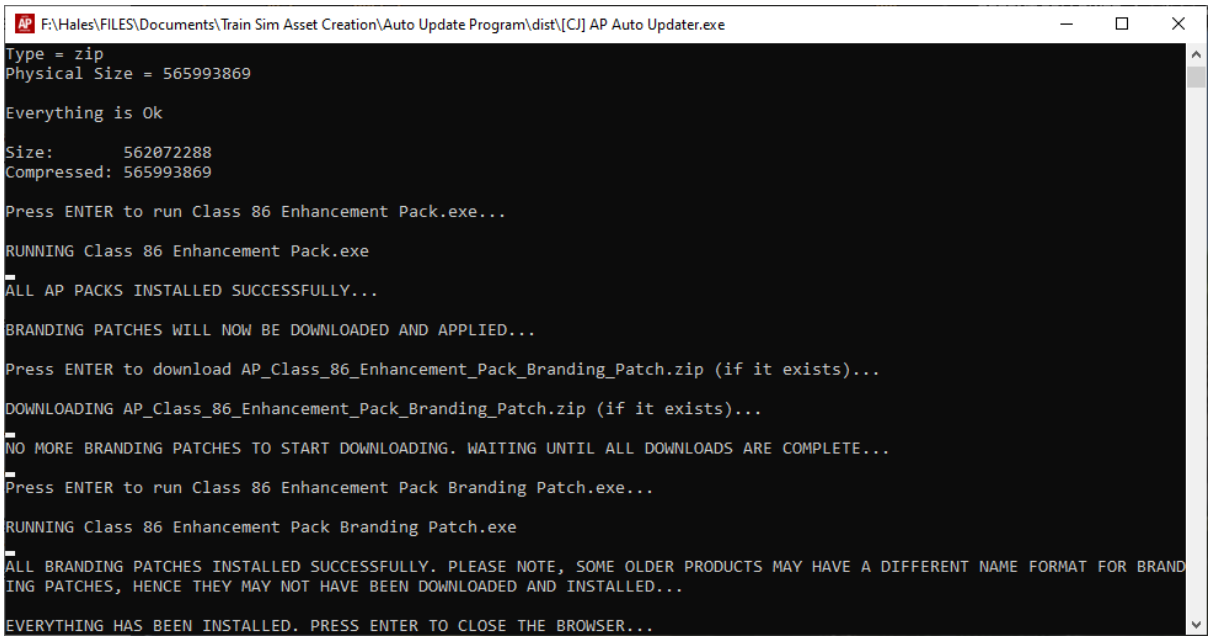
5) Once all downloads are done, it will install the products. Then it will move onto branding packs and extra stock packs if you chose to install them.




6) Once everything is done, scroll up through the program output to check for any errors. It may be that a pack hasn't installed for whatever reason - you'll need to download and install it manually.

7) To exit the tool, when prompted, press ENTER to close the browser, and then CTRL + C to close the exe.



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# Changelog

V1.0.0: initial release

V1.0.1: fixed an issue for users who only have a single page of AP Downloads

V1.0.2: fixed an issue whereby users couldn't use the program if their Google Chrome version didn't match the version of chromedriver.exe. The program will now automatically download the correct version of chromedriver.exe to match your Google Chrome version when the program opens

V1.0.3: fixed an issue caused by Chrome version 115 and newer that was causing the program to crash

# Credits

Jack Hales - tool creation, manual, testing

Thank you to the OTS team for your help testing this tool.



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