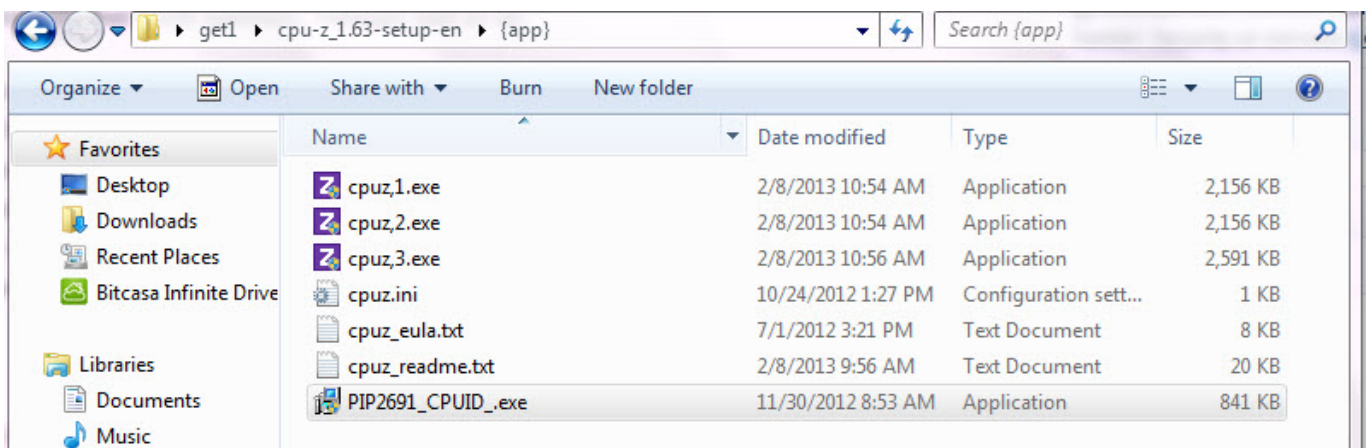


CPU-Z, the free unwanted package

CPU-Z from [CPUID](#) is a very popular freeware program that gathers and display information about your installed hardware like details of CPU, motherboard, installed RAM memory, voltages and so on.

On [CPUID](#) website you can find multiple download links of the same product, CPU-Z version 1.63, as an installation file containing both 32 and 64 bits versions or as a standalone executable either for 32 or 64 bits, the question is why to use an installation file when the program can run as a standalone executable so I've extracted the components of the installation file to see what it contains. I've used a [X-UniExtract 1.6.1 rev4](#), a very good tool for extracting files from any archives or installers. Surprisingly, besides the 32 and 64 bits executable versions of the CPU-Z program, the installer package contains also a third component:

- PIP2691_CPUID_.exe
- Product Name: Offercast- APN Install Manager
- Copyright: 2010 Ask.com



As always, I run the program in [Sandboxie](#) with [Buster Sandbox Analyzer](#) add-on, to see what it does. There was no word among installation screens about installing a second program, not a nice behaviour and I can add no respect for the users. I mean, OK, I understand that CPU-Z is Ad supported and not so freeware but why to install without the user consent another program potentially annoying? After all, why to install stealthily a program in the user PC? The user has not the chance to agree with it or not so that's a real malicious behaviour. A malware like behaviour, these are not just harsh words but a serious thing.

These are parts of the [Buster Sandbox Analyzer](#) add-on report:

.....

- * Creates file C:\Users\Cyberstorm\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\MVRC9FWK\pctools[1].png
- * Creates file C:\Users\Cyberstorm\AppData\Local\Temp\APNAnalytics.xml
- * Creates file C:\Users\Cyberstorm\AppData\Local\Temp\apn_pip_local\objectmodel.js
- * Creates file C:\Users\Cyberstorm\AppData\Local\Temp\apn_pip_local\orchestrator.html
- * Creates file C:\Users\Cyberstorm\AppData\Local\Temp\apn_pip_local\rules.js
- * Creates file
C:\Users\Cyberstorm\AppData\Local\Temp\is-1GG7C.tmp\cpu-z_1.63-setup-en.tmp
- * Creates file C:\Users\Cyberstorm\AppData\Local\Temp\is-JV8S3.tmp\APNLog.txt

- * Creates file
C:\Users\Cyberstorm\AppData\Local\Temp\is-JV8S3.tmp\PIP2691_CPUID_.exe
- * Creates file
C:\Users\Cyberstorm\AppData\Local\Temp\is-JV8S3.tmp_isetup_RegDLL.tmp
- * Creates file
C:\Users\Cyberstorm\AppData\Local\Temp\is-JV8S3.tmp_isetup_shfoldr.dll
- * Creates file C:\Users\Cyberstorm\AppData\Local\Temp\pctools.png

.....

[Network services]

- * Looks for an Internet connection.
- * Connects to "pipoffers.apnpartners.com" on port 80.
- * Connects to "127.0.0.1" on port 61549.
- * Connects to "ak.pipoffers.apnpartners.com" on port 80.
- * Connects to "23.11.78.3" on port 80.
- * Connects to "199.36.100.103" on port 80.
- * Connects to "apnpip.ask.com" on port 80.
- * Connects to "81.196.26.154" on port 80.

[Process/window/string information]

- * Keylogger functionality.
- * Gets user name information.
- * Gets system default language ID.
- * Gets computer name.
- * Checks for debuggers.
- * Deletes activity traces.

A lot of Internet connections are made without user agreement and the common sense guess is that the *PIP2691_CPUID_.exe* (*Offercast- APN Install Manager*) is serving forcibly products offers or advertisements that the user does not ask for, so it is undesirable and a good reason to call CPU-Z installer a free unwanted package.

Instead of using the installation file [1.63 setup, english](#) which is at least a questionable package, I think it's a better idea to use directly the executable file according to your system [1.63 32-bit, english](#) or [1.63 64-bit, english](#).

Keep safe !

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