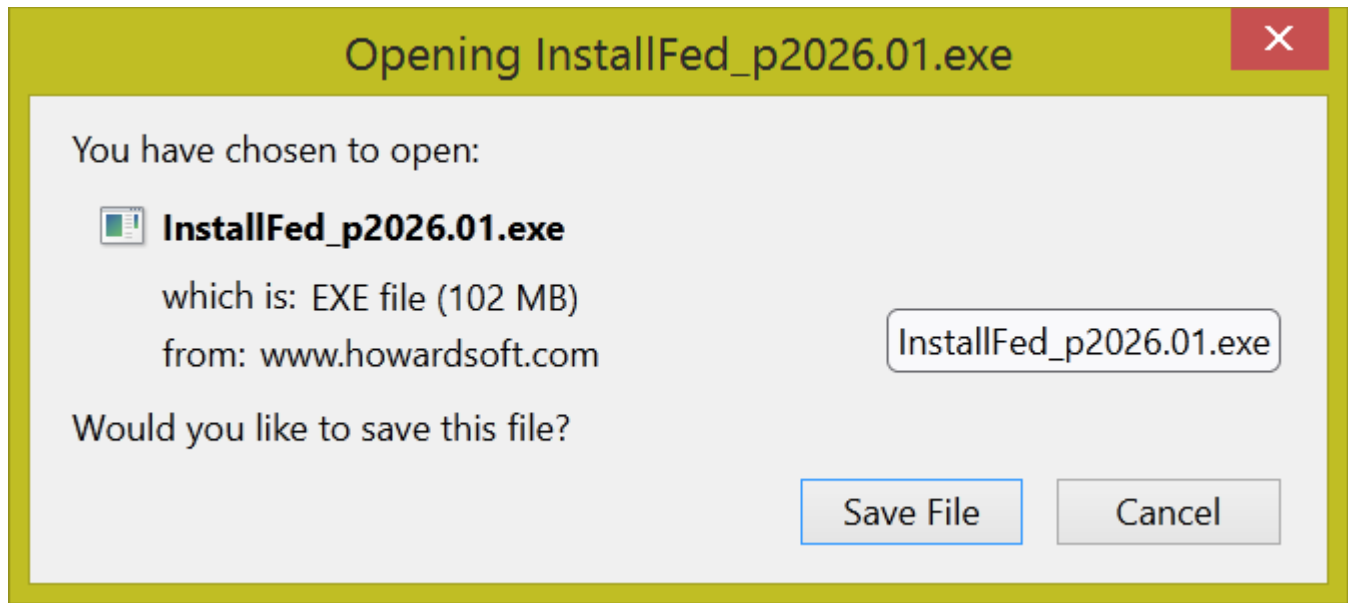


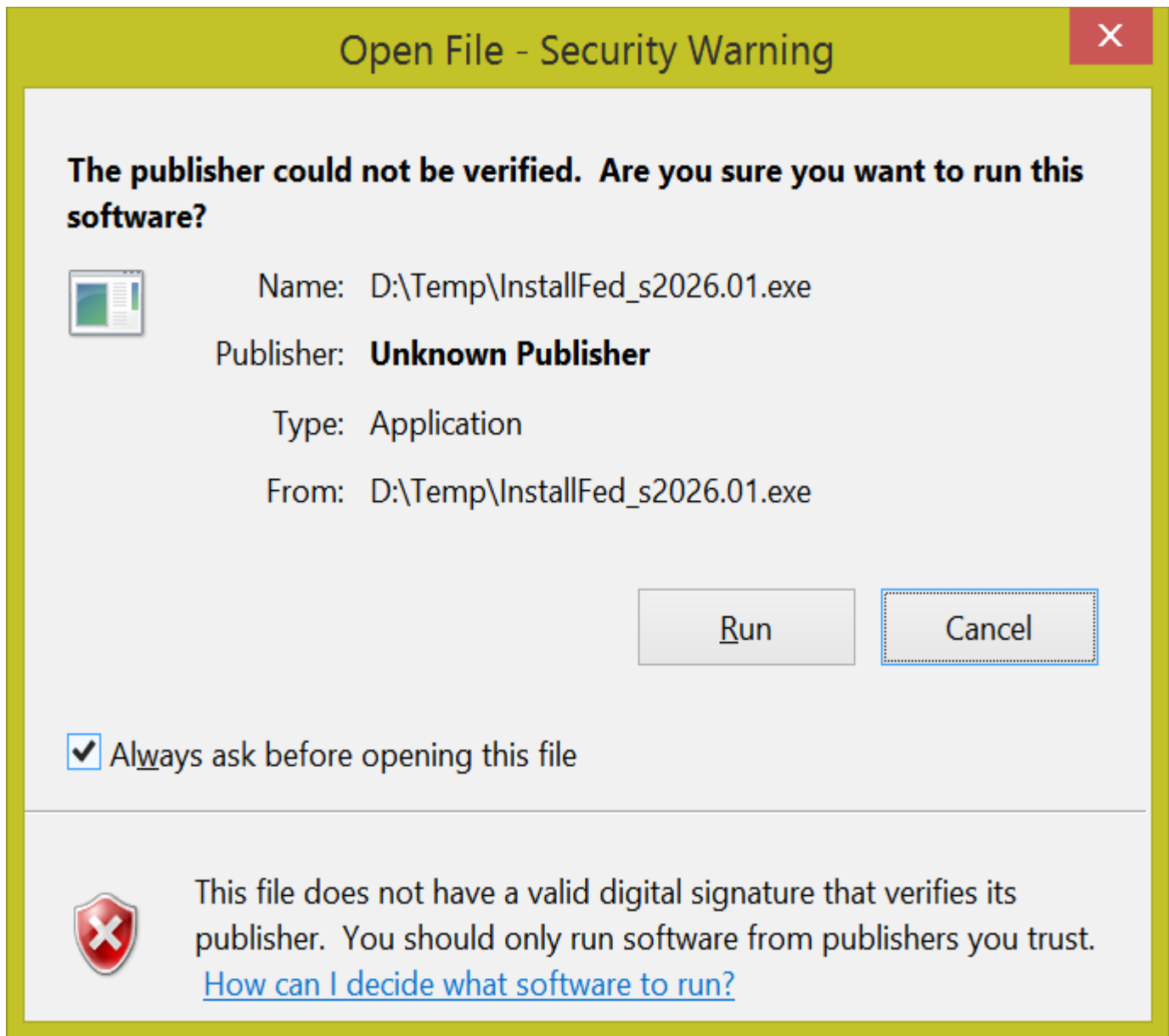
12 steps for Downloading and Installing the complete Tax Preparer program (from the Link we emailed to you)

Step 1: Click the link we sent you by email. You should see the below window. The name of the file you will download is shown in that window. It's shown in the below window as **InstallFed_p2026.01.exe**, which is the Premium version, but the **p** in the filename is replaced by an **s** for Standard or an **e** for Economy.



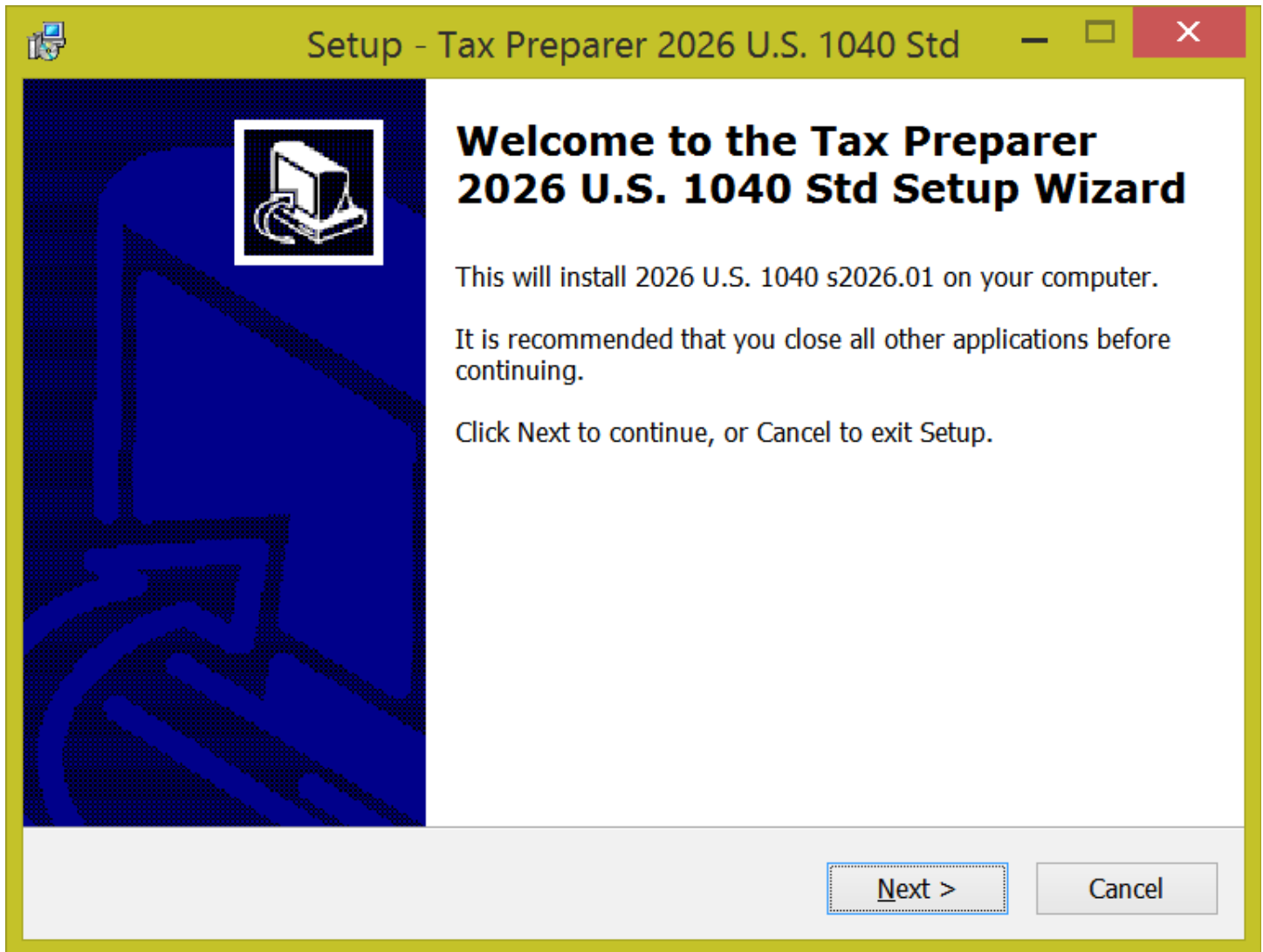
Step 2: Click **Save File**. Your computer **(a)** may save the file automatically to a location of it's choosing, or **(b)** you may be able to choose a location yourself, depending on your Windows setup. If you encounter **(a)**, you must notice the location or click **Show all downloads** to see the location and the file, and should **double-click the downloaded file** now to start the installation. But if you encounter **(b)**, you must go to the location where you saved the file and **double-click the file** now to start the installation.

Step 3: After you double-click the downloaded file, you should see the following window:



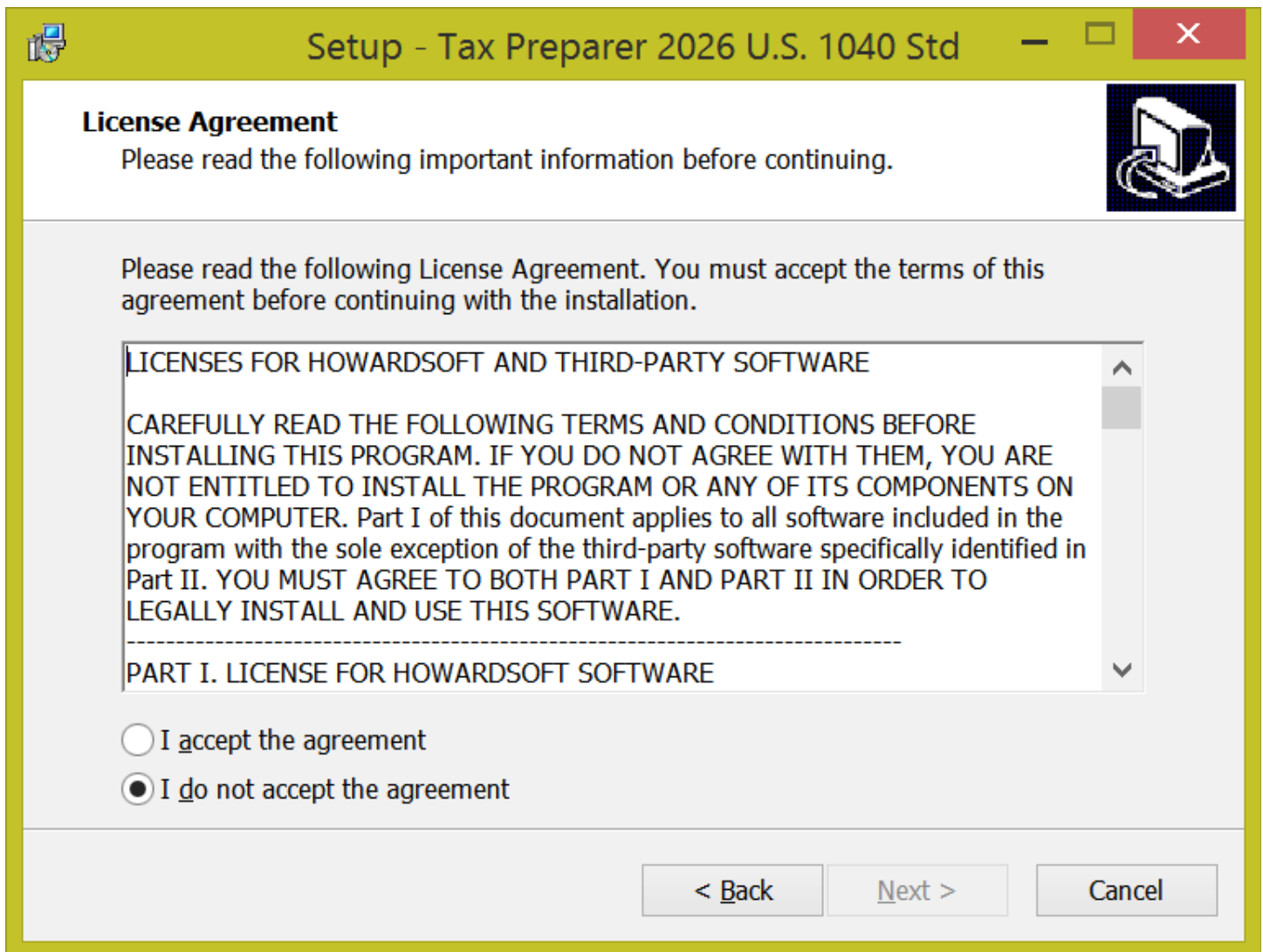
You must now **click Run** to start the installation, in spite of the fact that Windows doesn't know HowardSoft.

Step 4: You should now see the following window (shown for the Standard version as Std, but will be Eco for Economy and Prm for Premium).

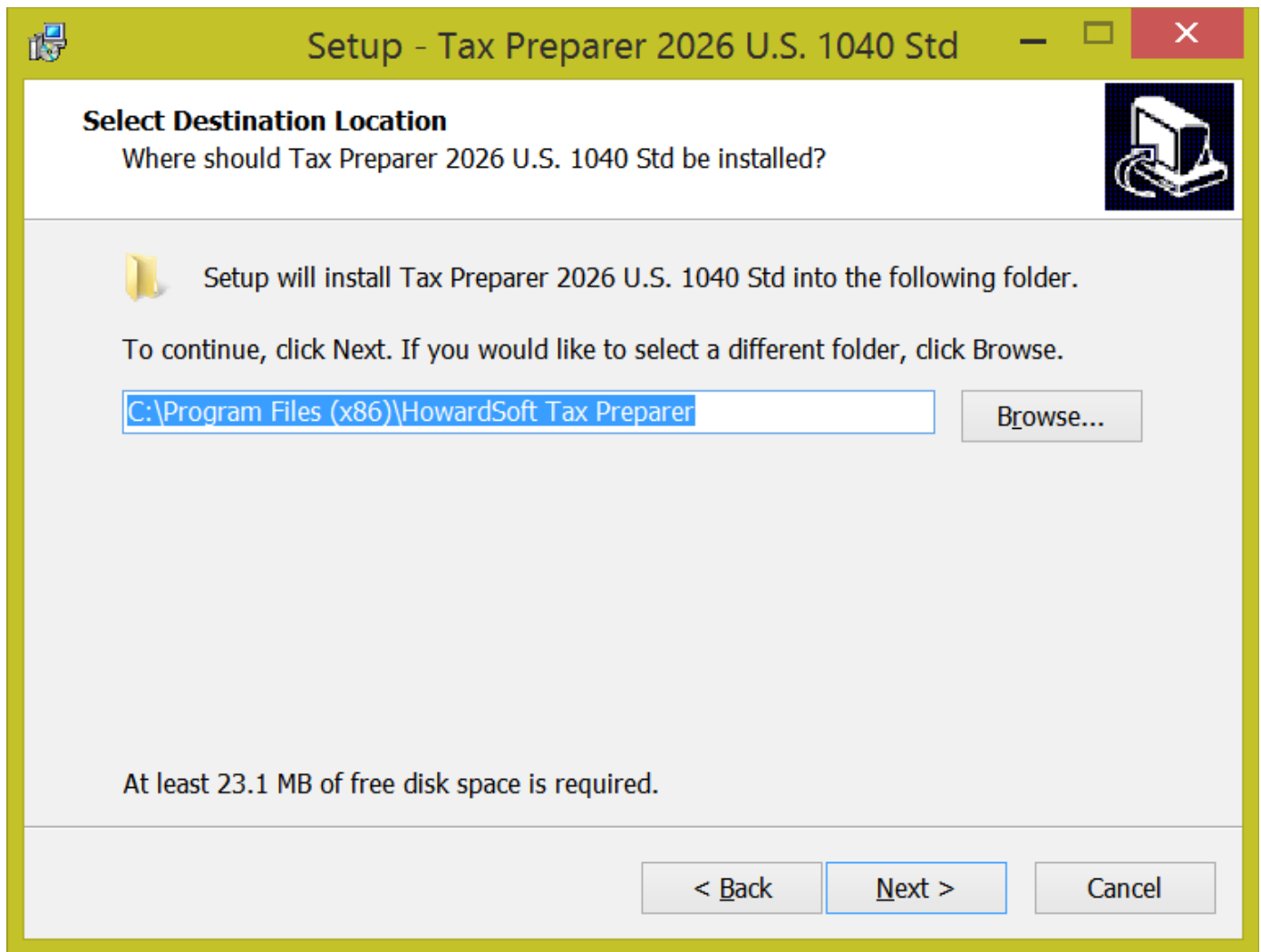


To start the installation, **click Next**

Step 5: You should now see our licensing agreement, shown below, which protects our copyrights and those of other software we use in developing our software.

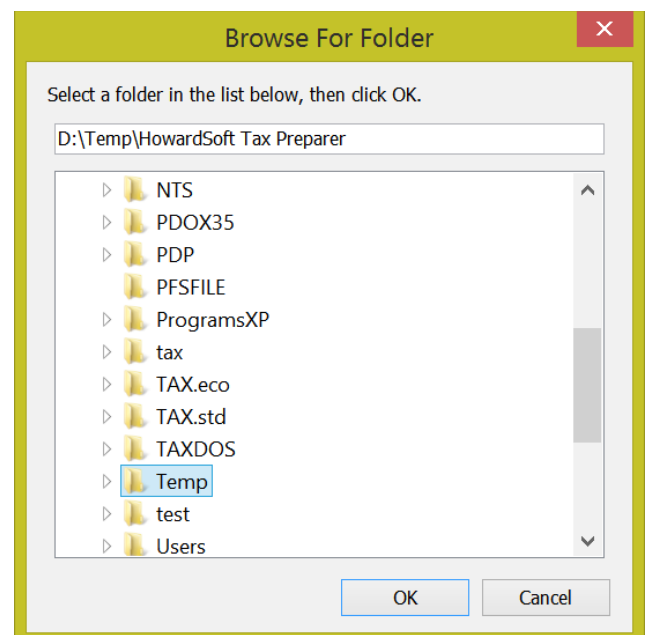


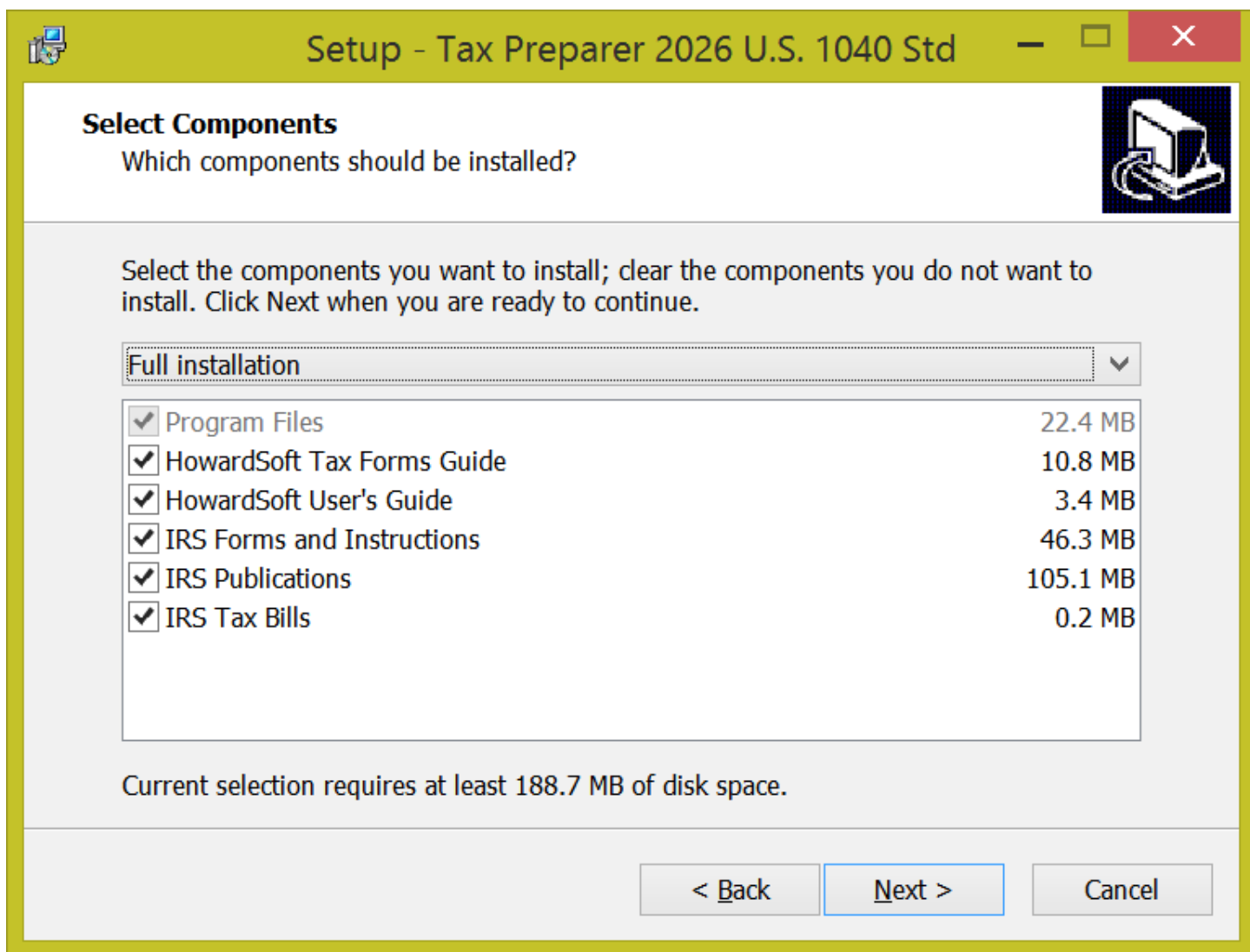
To continue with the installation, you must accept our licensing agreement, so **click inside the circle** beside "I accept the agreement" to continue, then **click Next** (which will no longer be faded once you accept the licensing agreement).



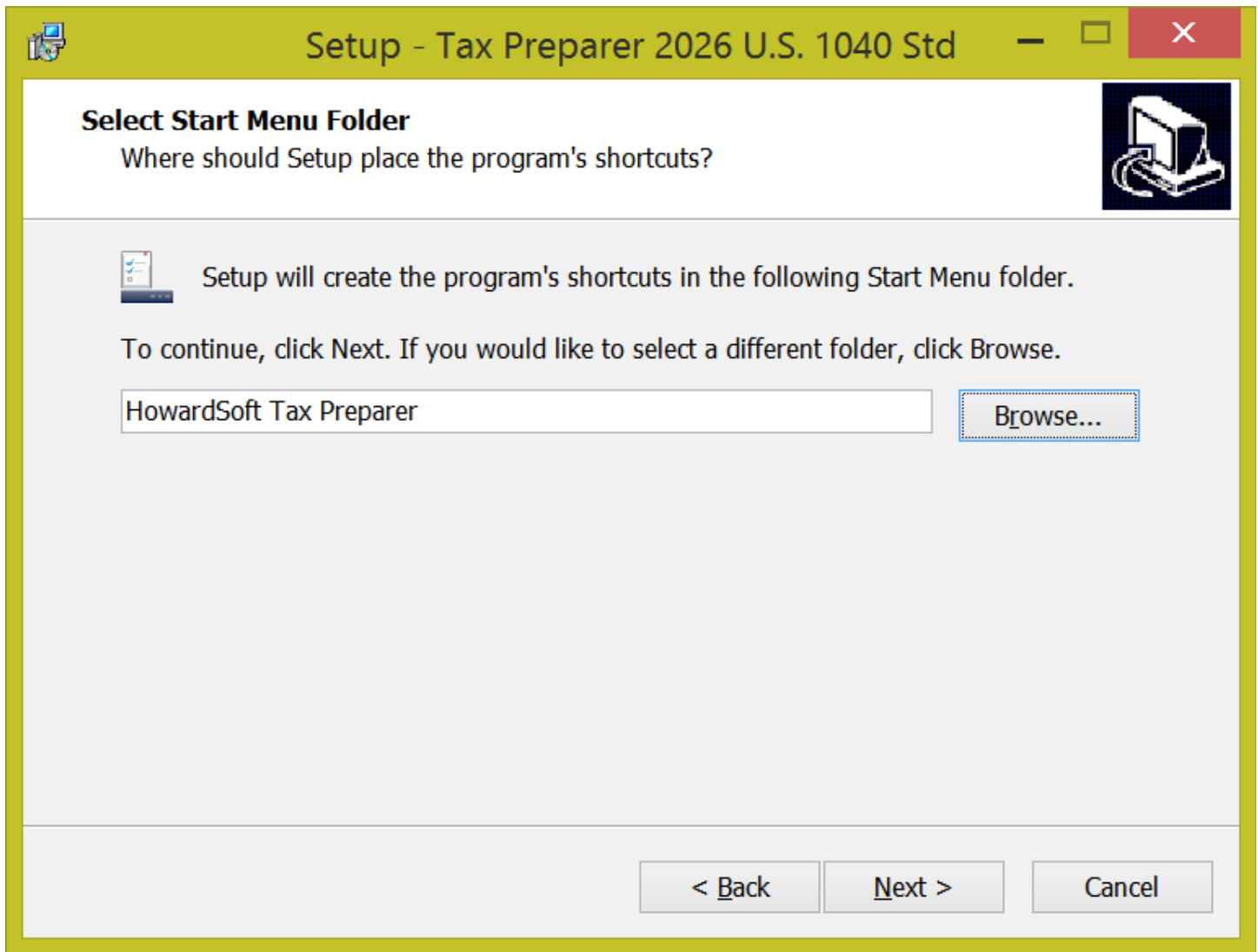
Step 6. The next window, above, shows the folder where Windows wants your Tax Preparer program to be stored. If you accept this location, which we strongly recommend, **click Next now.**

But if you want to choose another location, you must first have created a folder for that location (or use a folder already on your computer) to hold Tax Preparer. Once you have such a folder, **click Browse** then **navigate to that folder, click the folder**, then **click OK**, as shown here for storing the program in a folder named D:\Temp\HowardSoft Tax Preparer . The previous window then reappears with that folder shown, so you can now **click Next.**

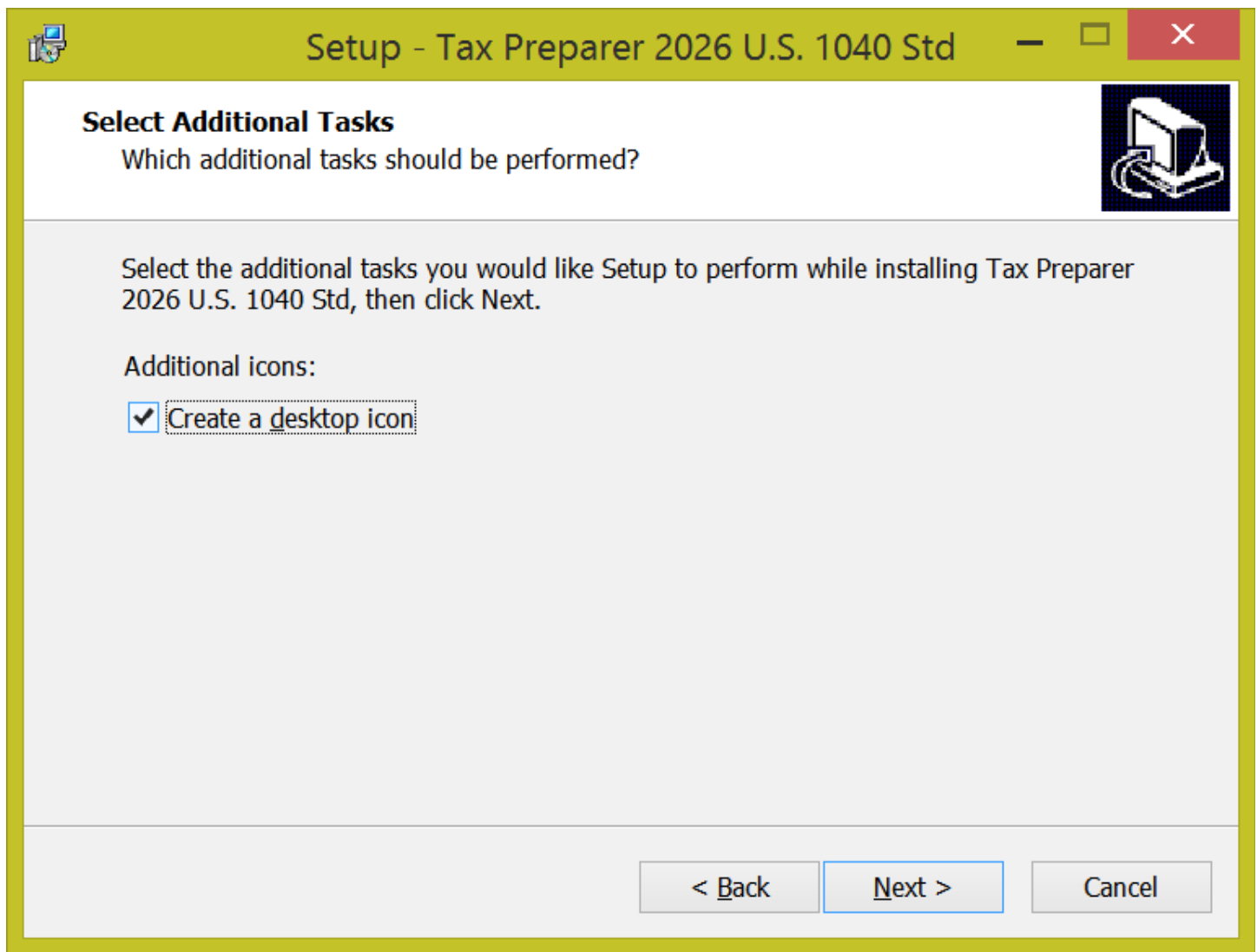




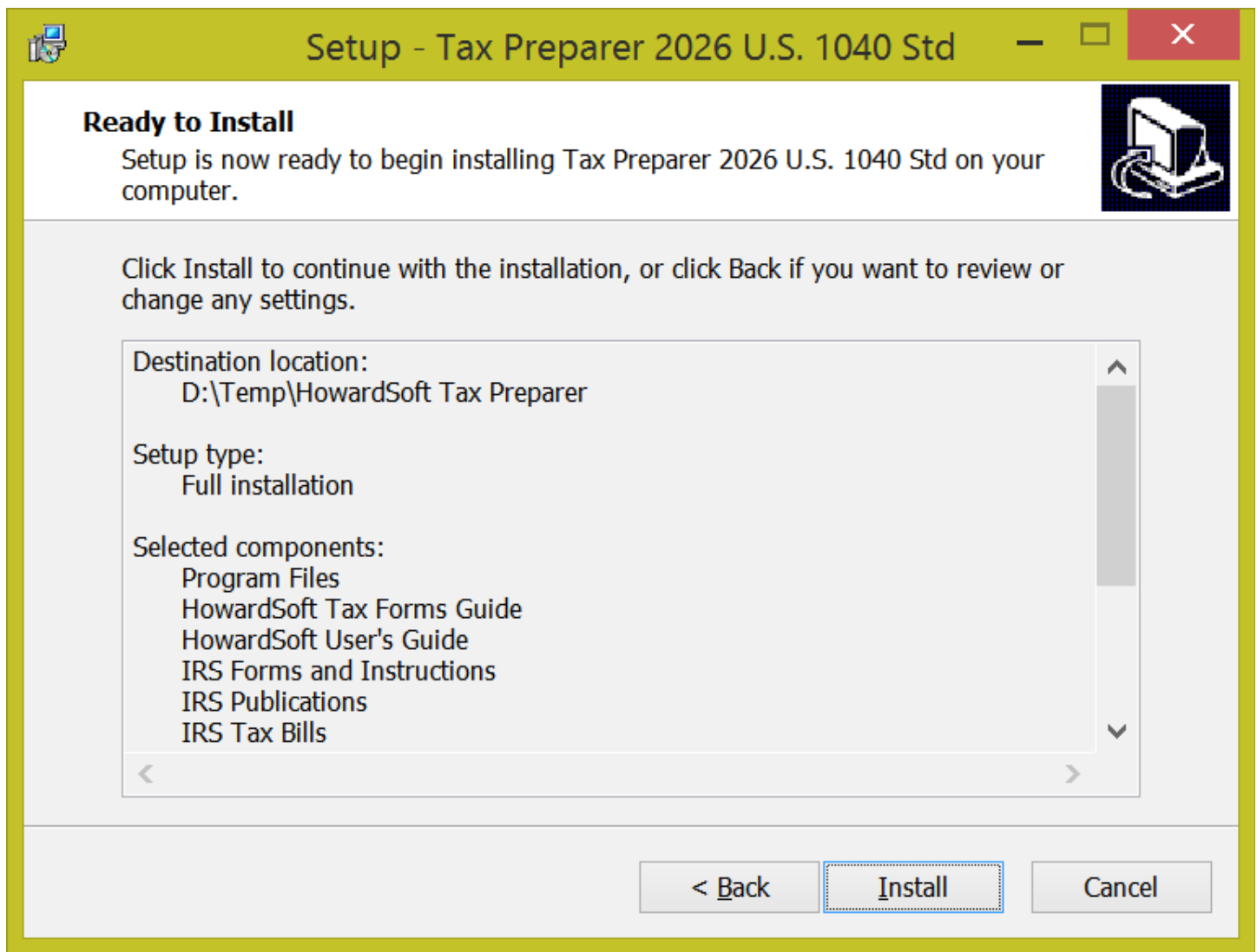
Step 7. You can now choose which of the available documents you want to store on your computer along with Tax Preparer. For ALL versions (Economy, Standard, and Premium) the entire list of files is shown, but those that you cannot change are faded out (such as Program Files, which are always checked, and, for the Economy version, IRS files, which are always unchecked). We strongly recommend accepting the default of all documents being checked (subject to availability for your version), so they are instantly available to you while using Tax Preparer by clicking "Documents" on the skinny Tax Preparer Control Panel. But can uncheck some to save disk space. Once you are satisfied with your choices, **click Next.**



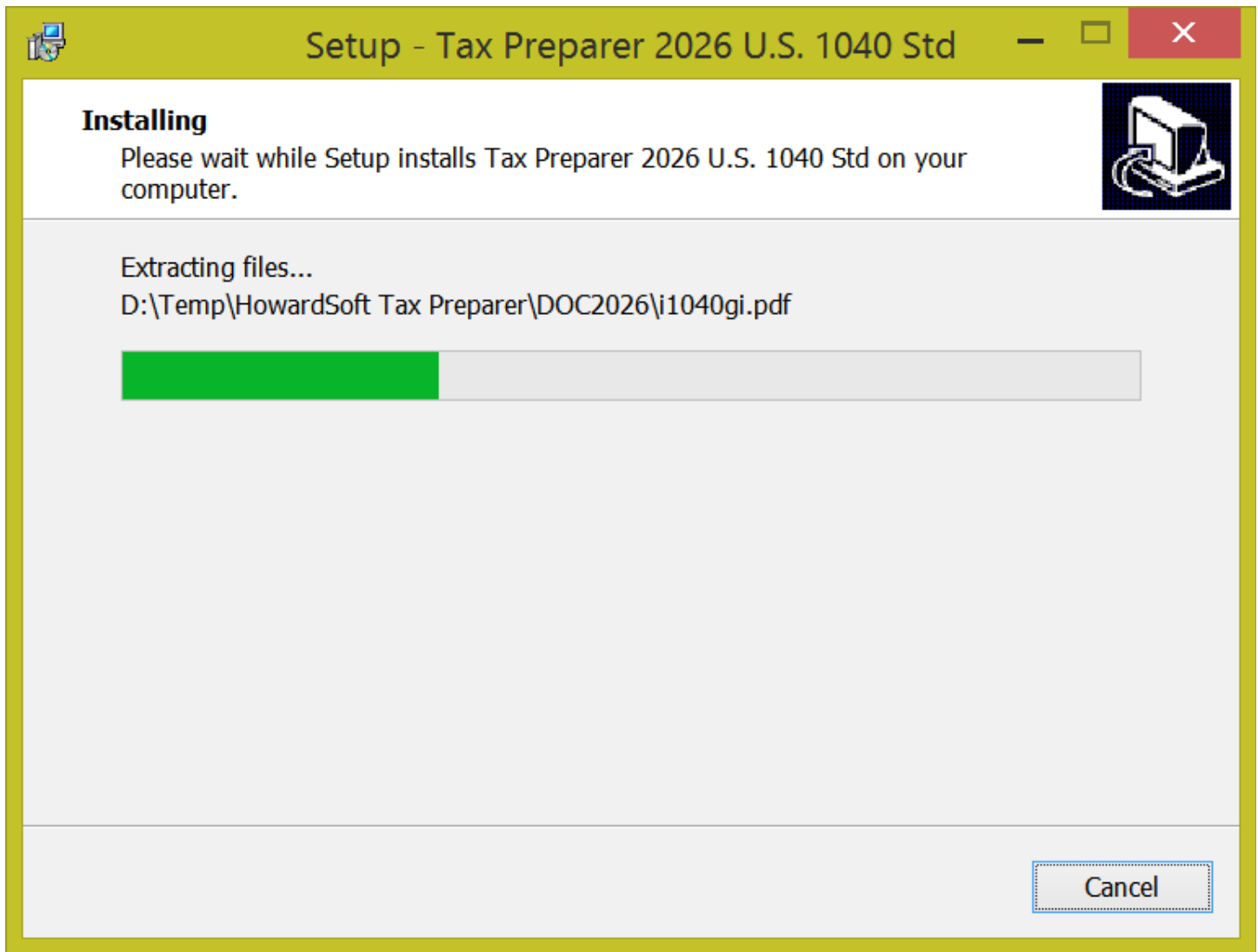
Step 8. Now you are shown the folder where your program shortcuts will be stored, which you can change by clicking Browse in the same way that you could have changed the location where your program is actually stored. But, again, we **strongly recommend accepting our default**, which is a sub-folder of the main Program's folder on your computer. So... **click Next** once you are satisfied with the location.



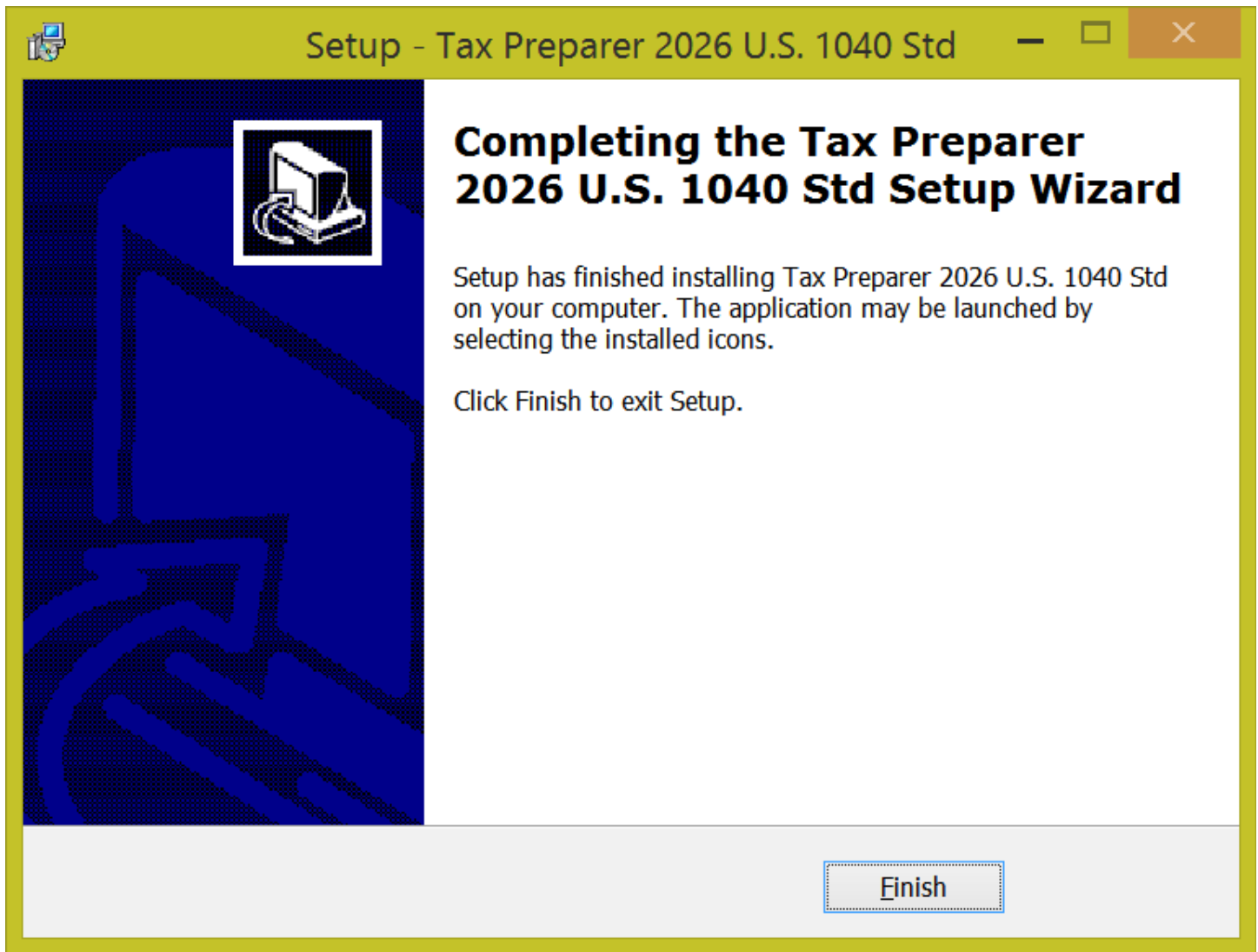
Step 9. Now you can choose to create a desktop icon for Tax Preparer, which we very strongly recommend so that you can start the current edition of Tax Preparer just by clicking the Tax Preparer icon, which is the *Eye of Providence* (often called the "All-Seeing Eye of God," on the back of a dollar bill). A separate icon is created for each edition, and is titled ***Tax Preparer 2026 - 1040*** for the 2026 tax processing year. **Click Next** to accept your choice.



Step 10. You will now see a summary of your choices so you can click Back to change any of your choices before you actually start the installation. Once you are satisfied with all your choices, **click Install** and the actual installation will now start.



Step 11. Eventually, you will see the progress of the installation in a screen like the one above, showing each file that is being accessed and copied to your computer. But **BE PATIENT**, because sometimes *it can take several minutes* for the installation to prepare your system by creating directories in the background *before you see any progress of the type shown above*.



Step 12. Once the installation is complete, you will see the above screen, and must **click Finish** to exit the installation.

The Tax Preparer icon should now appear on your desktop, if you accepted our recommendation to keep it, so that you can **instantly start Tax Preparer** at any time just **by double-clicking that icon**.