



Installing Visual Basic

In order to create Windows applications with the Visual Basic programming language you will first need to install a Visual Basic Integrated Development Environment (IDE).

Microsoft Visual Studio is the professional development tool that provides a fully Integrated Development Environment for Visual C++, Visual C#, Visual J#, and Visual Basic. Within its IDE, code can be written in C++, C#, J# or the Visual Basic programming language to create Windows applications.

Microsoft Visual Basic Express Edition is a streamlined version of Visual Studio specially created for those people learning Visual Basic. It has a simplified user interface and omits advanced features of the professional edition to avoid confusion. Within its IDE, code can be written in the Visual Basic programming language to create Windows applications.

Both Visual Studio and Visual Basic Express Edition provide a Visual Basic IDE for Visual Basic programming. Unlike the fully-featured Visual Studio product, the Visual Basic Express Edition is completely free and can be installed on any system meeting the following minimum requirements:

Component	Requirement
Operating system	Windows® XP + Service Pack 3 Windows® Server 2003 + Service Pack 2 Windows® Vista + Service Pack 2 Windows® Server 2008 + Service Pack 2 Windows® 7
CPU (processor)	1.6 GHz or faster
RAM (memory)	1024 Mb (1 Gb) minimum
HDD (hard drive)	3 Gb available space, 5400 RPM speed
Video Card	DirectX 9-capable, and a screen resolution of 1024 x 768 or higher

The Visual Basic Express Edition is used throughout this book to demonstrate programming with the Visual Basic language but the examples can also be recreated in Visual Studio. Follow the steps opposite to install Visual Basic Express Edition.

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- 1 Open your web browser and navigate to the Visual Basic Express Edition download page on the Microsoft website – at the time of writing this can be found at <http://www.microsoft.com/express/download>
- 2 Click the Visual Basic Express Edition “Download” option then click “Save” in the File Download dialog that appears and save the “vb_web.exe” installer file on your computer’s desktop
- 3 Click on the “vb_web.exe” file to run the installer then click Next in the Welcome to Setup dialog and accept the terms in the License Terms dialog – click on Next once more to continue
- 4 In the Installation Options dialog be sure to check the option to also install Microsoft SQL Server, then click on Next to continue
- 5 Accept the suggested destination folder, then click on Install to implement the installation of Visual Basic

Hot tip



You can uncheck the option box in the “Welcome to Setup” dialog if you prefer not to share your setup experiences with Microsoft.

Beware



Choosing a different destination folder may require other paths to be adjusted later – it’s simpler to just accept the suggested default.

