How to install VStar under Windows

Prerequisites: *VStar* is a Java-based application. It requires Java Runtime Environment (JRE) version 1.8 or later. You can download JRE installer for free from the official site: https://www.java.com/en/download/

Vstar for Windows is distributed in a form of a ZIP-package (requires manual installation) and as an executable installer. ZIP-package can be downloaded from the *SourceForge* repository. Follow the link https://sourceforge.net/projects/vstar/files/, select a directory corresponding to the highest version (2.21.1 on 07-May-2020). Click on *vstar-<version>-win.zip* (*vstar-2.21.1-win.zip* for a version 2.21.1) to download.

Manual installation from ZIP-package

Unpack downloaded zip archive into the desired location (for example, to *Documents* folder or to your home folder). Inside the *vstar* folder, find the *VStar.exe* executable file and launch it like any other application.
You can also create desktop and user menu shortcuts to *VStar.exe* launching *CreateVStarShortcuts.vbs* script.

Using the executable installer

Launch *VStarSetup_<version>.exe*. In most cases, you can simply follow the installation wizard. In the beginning, the installer checks if JRE is installed (trying to execute *javaw.exe*) and prompts you to download JRE if an attempt to launch *javaw.exe* fails.

Plug-ins

The functionality of VStar is extendable with plug-ins. There are plenty of plug-ins available, you can find an instruction on how to use and install plugins here: https://aavso.org/vstar-plugin-library