

# Installing Visual Studio C++ Build TOOLS

## What You Need

- A Windows 2016 Server machine, real or virtual. You cannot use Windows Server 2008.

## Purpose

After this installation, you can write C++ programs on Windows.

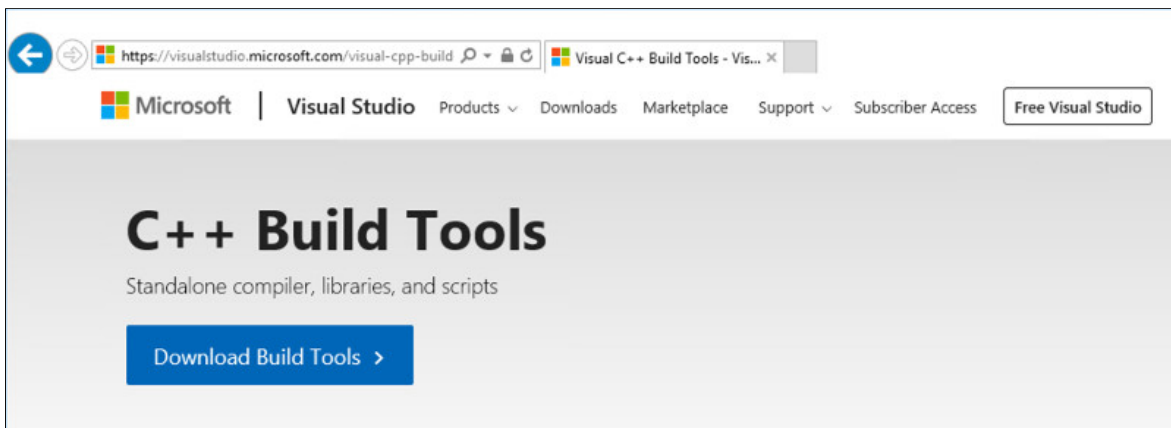
## Downloading and Installing Visual C++ Build Tools

In your Windows server, open a Web browser.

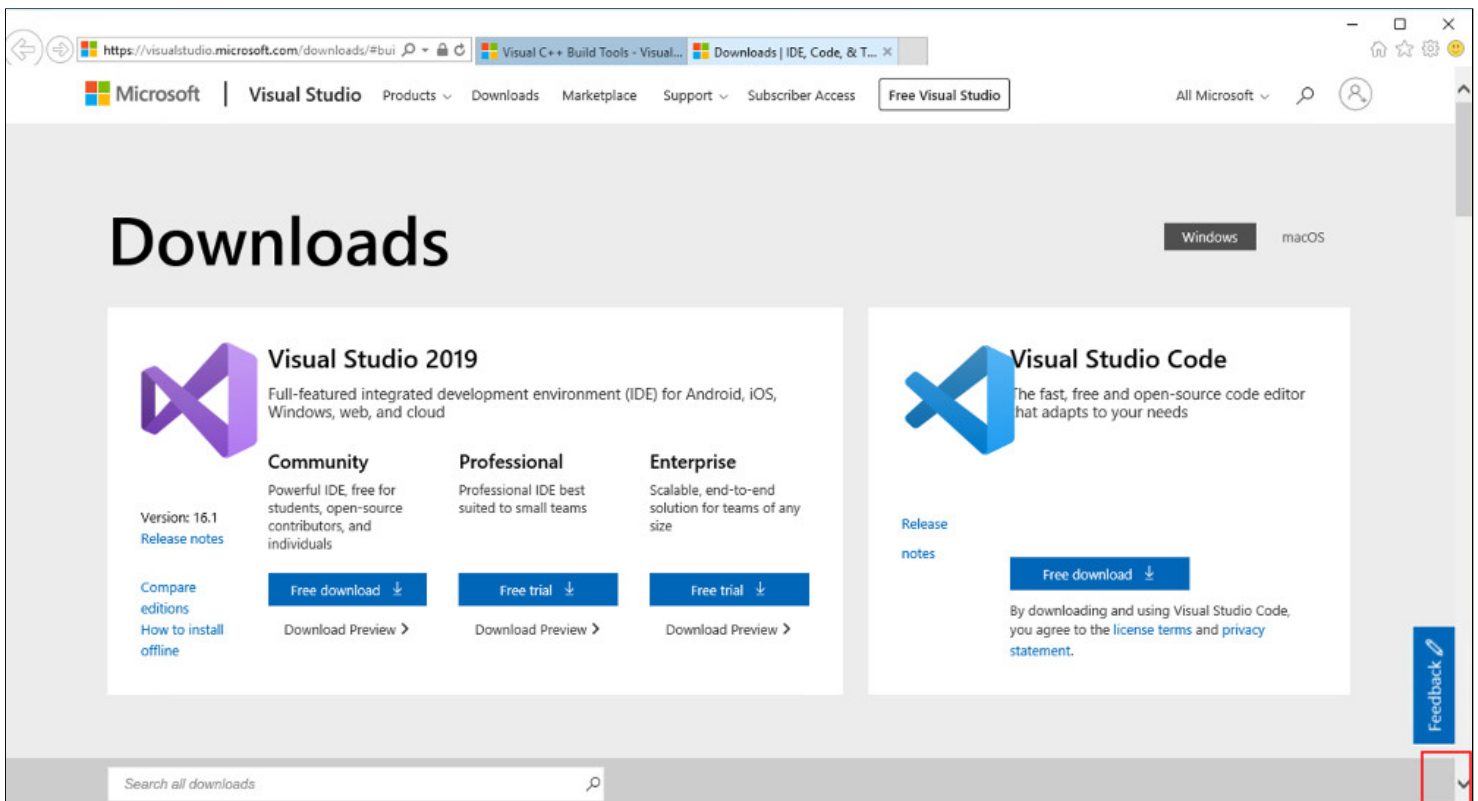
Open this page:

<https://visualstudio.microsoft.com/visual-cpp-build-tools/>

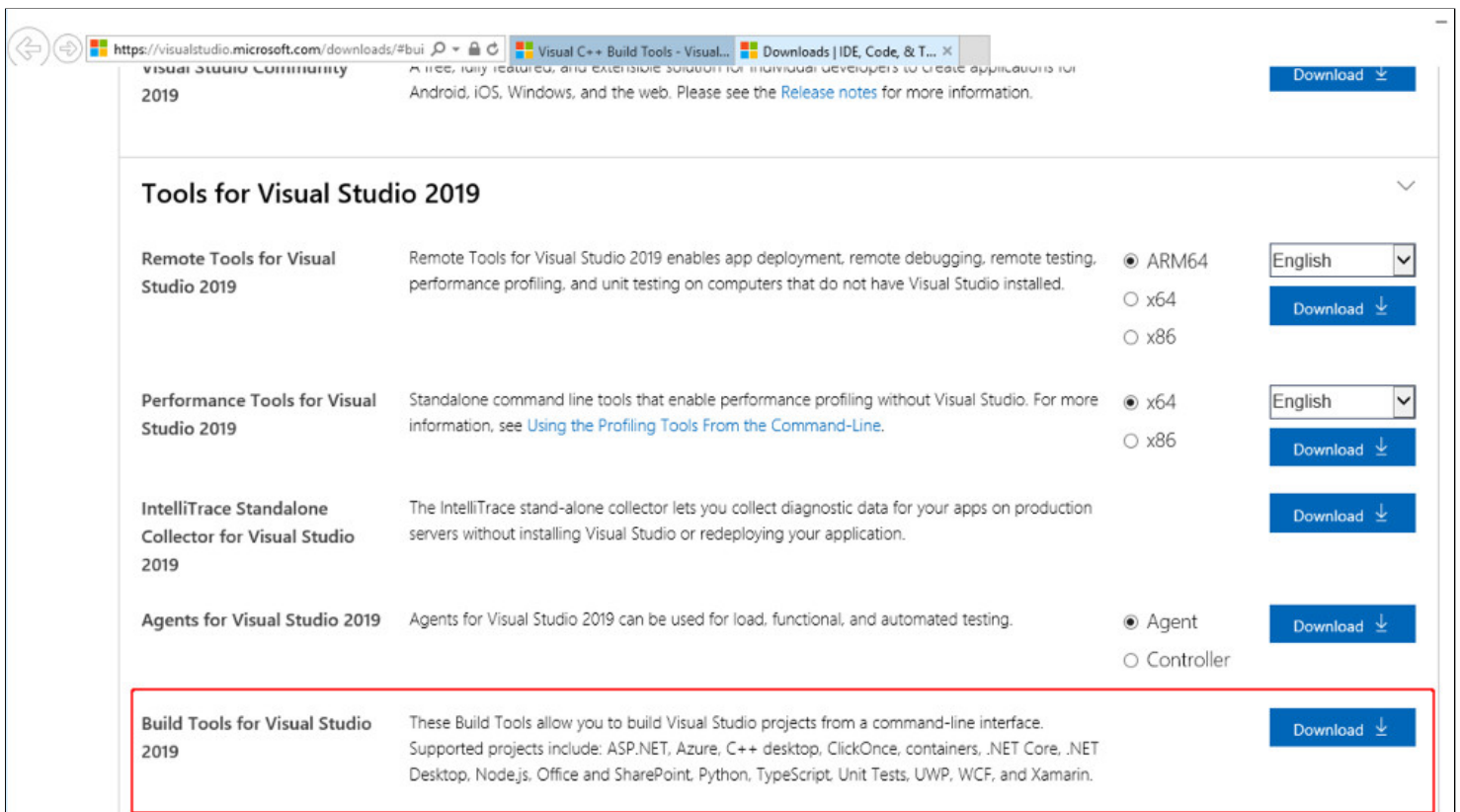
Click the "**Download Build Tools**" button, as shown below.



The Downloads page opens, as shown below.



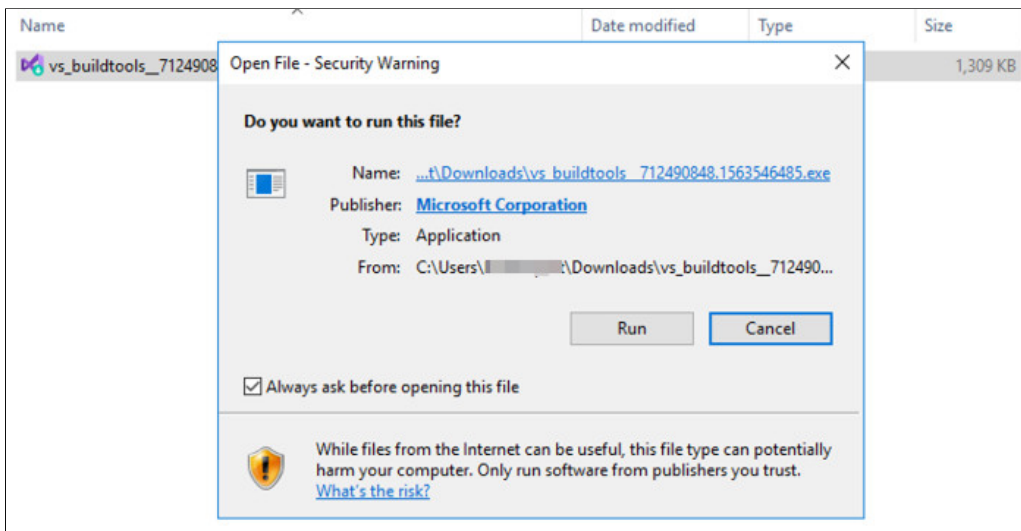
Scroll down to the "Tools for Visual Studio 2019" section. Click the **Download** button next to "Build Tools for Visual Studio 2019", as shown below.



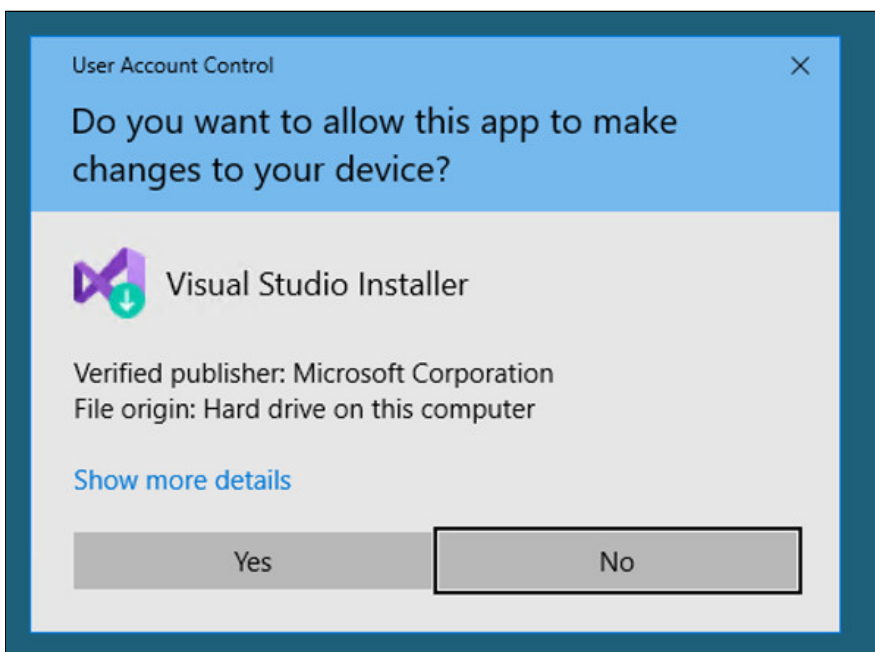
Save the **vs\_buildtools\_\_712490848.1563546485** file in your Downloads folder.

Double-click the the **vs\_buildtools\_\_712490848.1563546485** file.

At the security warning, click **"Run"** to open the file.

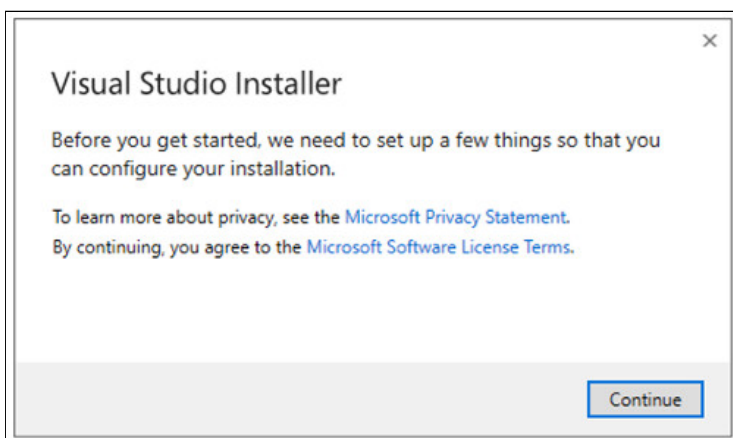


Click **"Yes"** to allow the app to make changes to your device.

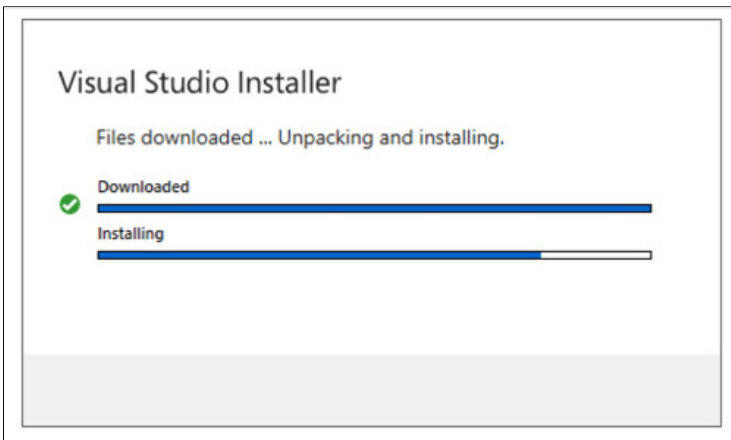


A box pops up, as shown below.

Click **Continue**.



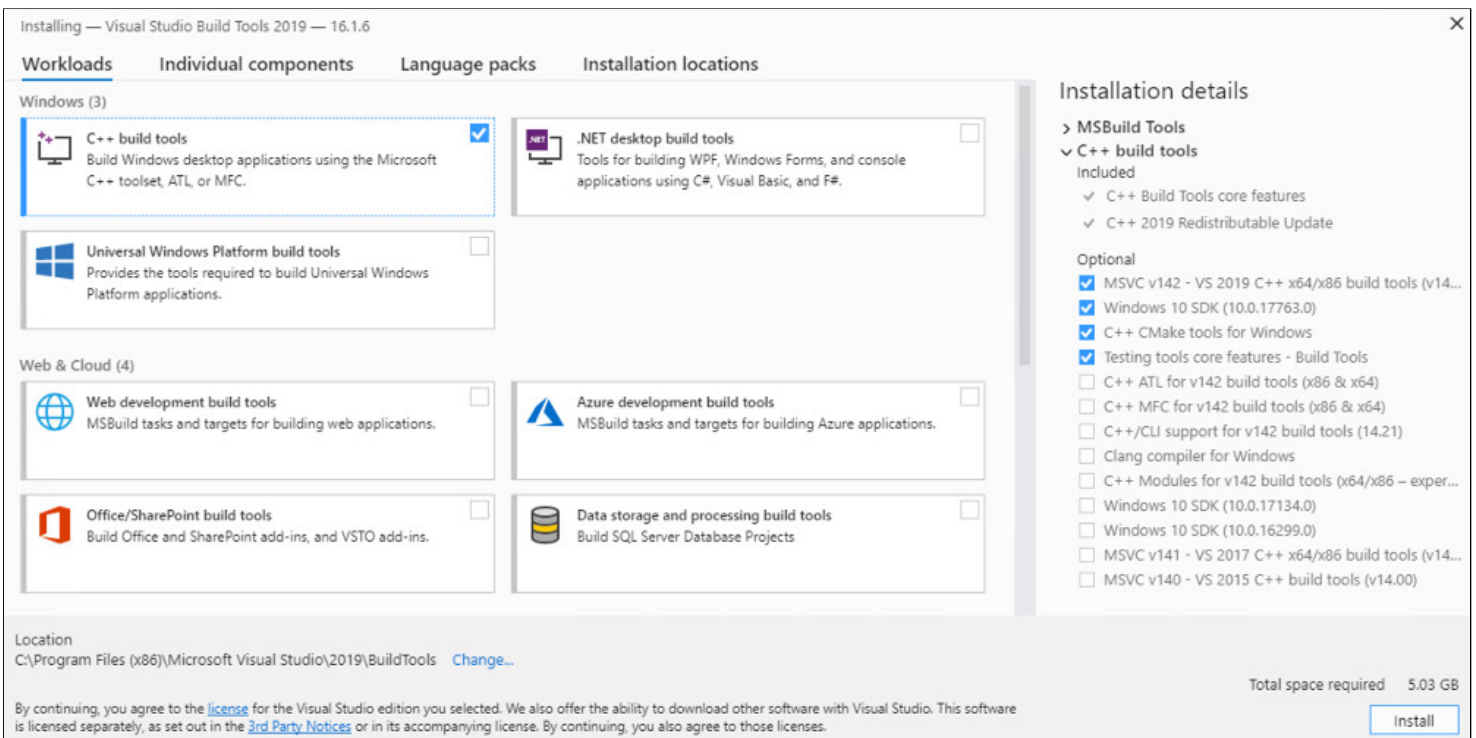
Wait while software downloads and installs, as shown below.



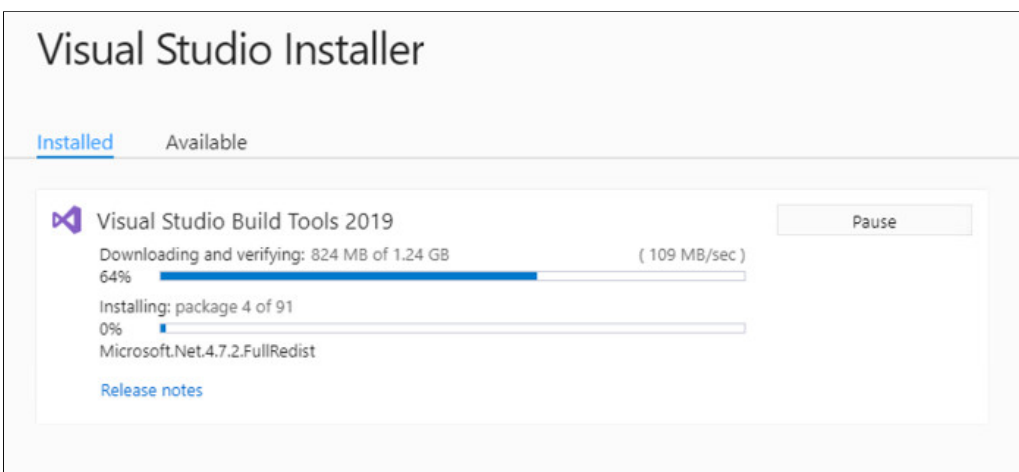
A large window appears, as shown below.

At the top left, click "**C++ build tools**".

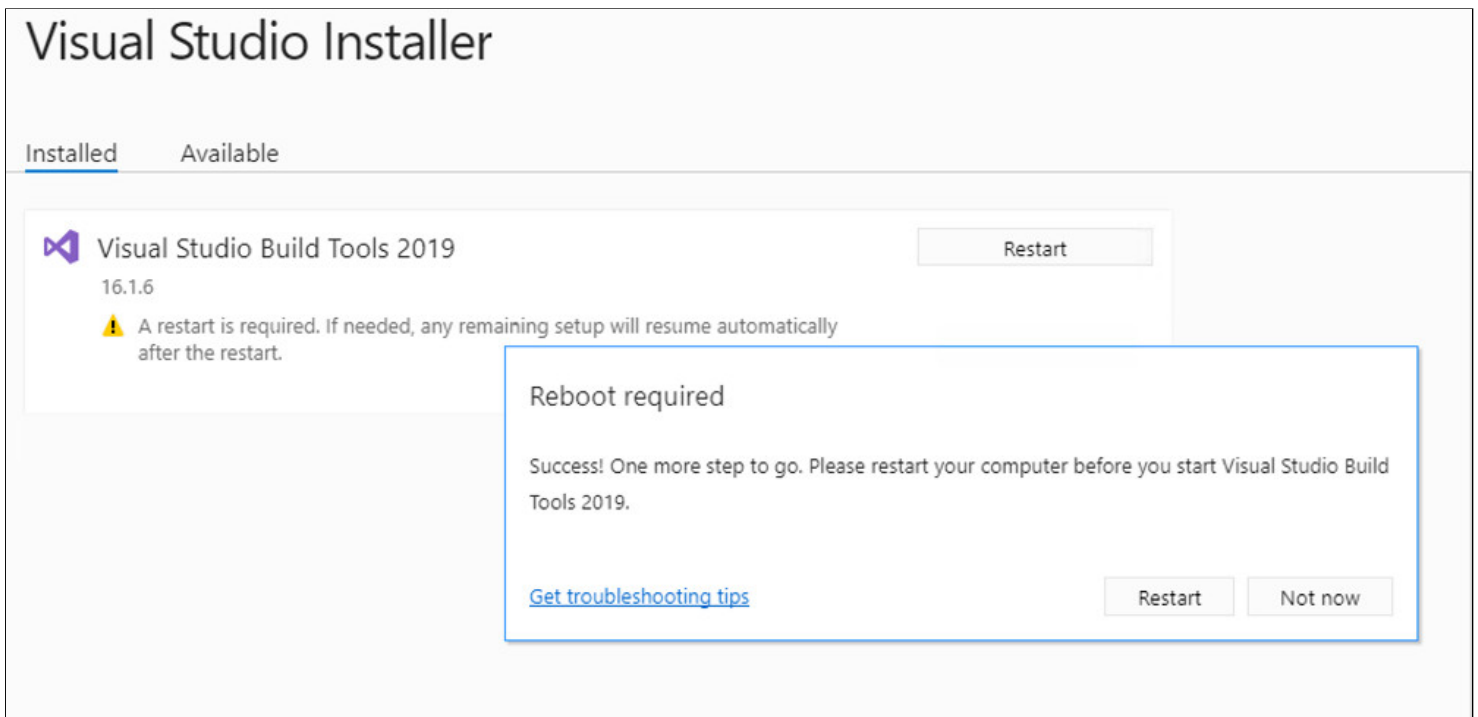
At the bottom right, click the **Install** button.



Wait while software downloads and installs, as shown below. This should take about ten minutes.

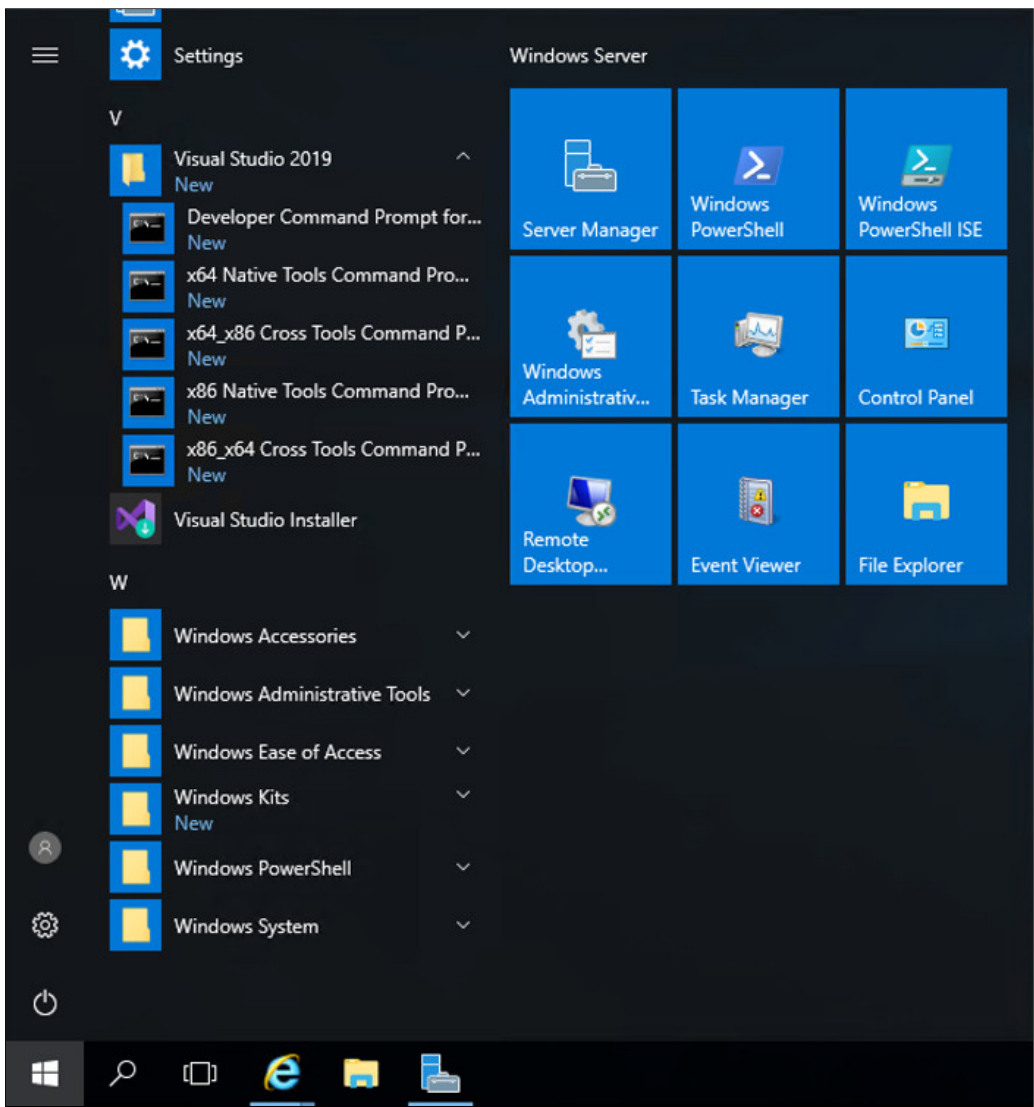


When the installation completes, you will have to restart your computer and reconnect to the RDP session.

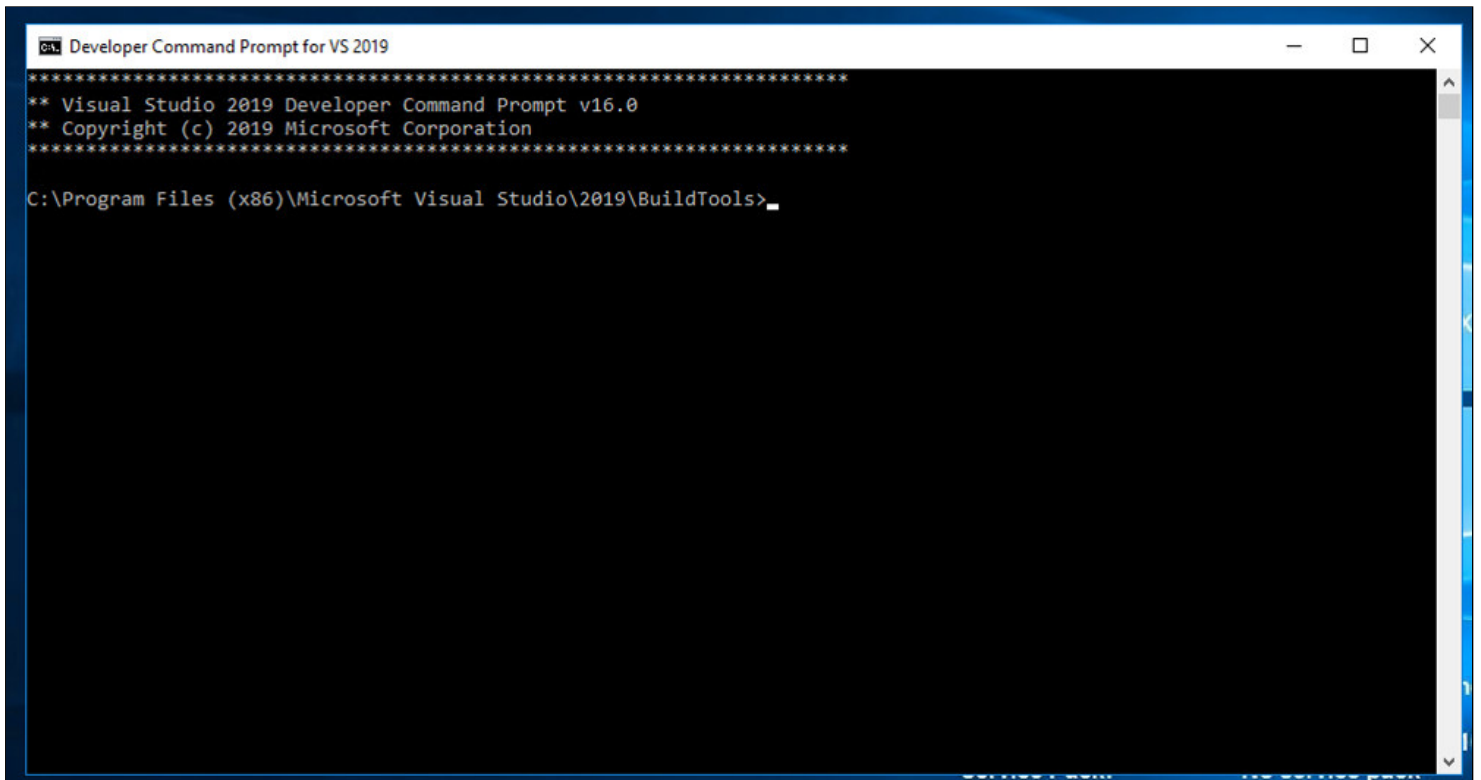


If you are having issues reconnecting through RDP, it may take a minute or two for the machine to completely reboot.

Once you are logged back in, click the **Windows Start** icon in the bottom left corner, and scroll to the **V** section. Expand the **"Visual Studio 2019"** section and click **Developer Command Prompt for VS 2019**



A Developer Command Prompt window opens, as shown below.

A screenshot of the Visual Studio 2019 Developer Command Prompt window. The window has a title bar that reads "Developer Command Prompt for VS 2019". The main area is black with white text. It displays a copyright notice: "\*\* Visual Studio 2019 Developer Command Prompt v16.0", "\*\* Copyright (c) 2019 Microsoft Corporation", followed by a separator line of asterisks. The current directory is "C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft Visual Studio\2019\BuildTools>".

```
Developer Command Prompt for VS 2019
*****
** Visual Studio 2019 Developer Command Prompt v16.0
** Copyright (c) 2019 Microsoft Corporation
*****
C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft Visual Studio\2019\BuildTools>
```

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Ported to Google Cloud by Travis Knapp-Prasek  
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Independent installation page made 9-18-19