

CSci 515 Setting Up Visual Studio Express 2010

Spring 2015

Line Numbers

I prefer to always have line numbers enabled in my source code editor as most compiler errors/warnings refer to specific line numbers in the source file, and thus it is easier to quickly determine the potential location of problems if line numbers are visible. For Visual Studio Express 2010 you can enable line numbers like this:

1. Tools → Options
2. In Options Dialog, select Text Editor → C/C++ → General
3. Enable the Line Numbers checkbox

Program Indentation and Tab Settings

For this class, you are required to correctly and consistently indent your code according to the Deitel good programming guidelines, and our class coding/formatting guidelines. You can have Visual Studio Express 2010 automatically set your indentation for you by changing the following settings:

1. Tools → Options
2. In Options Dialog, select Text Editor → C/C++ → Tabs
3. Set Indenting to Smart
4. Set Tab size to 2
5. Set indent size to 2
6. Select Insert Spaces (rather than Keep tabs)

The last step will keep you from creating files with hardcoded, embedded tabs, which will not display properly in other editors.

Display/Undisplay Invisible (space) Characters

If you still have problems with getting hardcoded tabs in your source files, most programming editors have a command that makes normally invisible whitespace characters become visible, using symbols for the different types of characters (space, tab, etc.). To toggle the display of invisible whitespace characters on and off, you can:

Method 1

1. Turn on advanced settings from Tools → Settings → Expert Settings
2. Toggle display of white space on/off from Edit → Advanced → View Whitespace

Method 2

The keyboard shortcut for this toggle is Ctrl-R Ctrl-W.