

# **Installing VASL**

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# Installing VASL

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You can install VASL on the most common operating systems, including Windows, Macintosh, and Linux.

To install VASL:

1. Confirm that you have the Java Runtime Engine (JRE) on your computer. If you do not have it installed, install it.  
See [Checking the Java Runtime Engine \(JRE\)](#)
2. Install the VASSAL Engine on your computer.  
For download and installation instructions for the VASSAL Engine, see the *VASSAL Users Guide* at <http://www.vassalengine.org/mediawiki/images/8/8c/Userguide.pdf>
3. Download and install the VASL VASSAL module on your computer.  
For details, see [Installing the VASL module](#)
4. Download and install the mapboards on your computer.  
For details, see [Installing VASL map files and overlay files](#)
5. Download and install any plugins you want to use on your computer.  
For details, see [Installing VASL extensions](#).

## Checking the Java Runtime Engine (JRE)

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The VASSAL engine and the VASL plugin both require a Java Runtime Engine (JRE) to run. The VASSAL engine requires version 5 or later of the JRE.

To check whether you have a JRE installed, start a browser and go to <https://java.com/en/download/installed.jsp>. Click **Agree and continue** to run the JRE checker. If you do not have a JRE installed, the checker will install the JRE to your computer. If you do not have the latest version of the JRE installed, the checker will offer to upgrade your JRE.



**Note:** Note: Oracle recommends that you update to the latest version of the JRE to ensure you have the latest security fixes installed.

If you want or need to install the JRE manually, go to <https://java.com/en/download/manual.jsp> for installers and links to installation instructions.

## Installing the VASL module

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After you install the VASSAL engine, download and install the VASL module.

To install the VASL module to the VASSAL engine:

1. Open a browser and go to <http://vasl.info/download.htm>.
2. Click the button to download the version of the VASL module you want to install.  
The module is downloaded as a .zip file to your default downloads folder.
3. Extract the VASL module (vasl.vmod) from the .zip file to a location you can find easily.
4. Start the VASSAL engine.
5. In the VASSAL menu bar, choose **File > Open module**.  
The VASSAL interface returns a browse dialog.
6. Navigate to the directory where you unzipped the vasl module, select the module, and click **Open**.  
The VASSAL interface returns a dialog stating that the VASSAL engine is tiling the VASL images.

The VASL module is installed to the VASL engine.

Next you must install the map files. If you do not install the map files, you will not be able to complete setup of a game. For details about installing the map files, see

## Installing VASL map files and overlay files

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You must install the VASL map files before you can start a game. You should also install the overlay files if you want to add overlays to your map.

To install the VASL map files:

**1. Create a folder for VASL files**

For example, if your operating system is Windows, you might create the directory C:\Program Files\VASSAL.

**2. In your VASL files folder, create a subfolder for your map (board) files.**

Continuing the earlier example, you would create the subfolder C:\Program Files\VASSAL\boards.

**3. Download the map files you want to install.**

You can download the map files from the following locations:

- <http://vasl.info/boards.htm>
- <https://sites.google.com/site/vaslmapbazaar/home/geo-boards>

The map (board) files are downloaded in .zip format to your default downloads folder.

**4. Extract (unzip) the map files to the map file subfolder you created in Step 2.**

**5. To install the overlay files:**

a) Create an overlays subfolder in the maps directory.

The overlay folder must be a subfolder of the maps (boards) folder.

Continuing the earlier example, you would create the subfolder C:\Program Files\VASSAL\boards\overlays.

b) Download the overlay files.

You can download the overlay files from the following locations:

- <http://vasl.info/overlays.htm>
- <https://sites.google.com/site/vaslmapbazaar/home/overlays>

The files will be downloaded in .zip format to your default downloads folder.

c) Extract (unzip) the overlays to the folder you created in Step a.

**6. Configure the board folder in VASL.**

a) Start VASL.

VASL displays the start game (Welcome) wizard.

b) Click **Cancel**.

VASL displays the VASL controls dialog.

c) In the menu bar, choose **File > Preferences**.

VASL displays the Preferences dialog. **TE General tab should be selected. If it is not selected, select it.**

d) Click the **Select** button next to the **Board Directory** field.

VASL displays the Open dialog.

e) Navigate to the VASL files folder you created in Step 1 and select the boards folder.

The boards directory is added to the **Look in** field.

f) Click **Open**.

The full path to the folder you selected is added to the **Board Directory** field.

g) Click **OK**.

The boards directory is now configured and you can select boards and overlays when starting a game.

## Installing extensions

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You can install extensions to customize VASL and add functionality to it.

To install extensions:

1. In your VASL files folder, create an `extensions` subfolder.  
For example, if you have a Windows operating system, create the folder `C:\Program Files\VASSAL\extensions`.
2. Download extensions from <http://vasl.info/extensions.htm> and move them to the folder you created in Step 1..
3. Start VASL.  
VASL displays the start game (Welcome) wizard.
4. Click **Cancel** .  
VASL displays the VASL controls dialog.
5. In the menu bar, choose **File > Preferences** .  
VASL displays the Preferences dialog.
6. Click the **Select** button next to the **Extensions Directory** field.  
VASL displays the Open dialog.
7. Click the **Extensions** tab.
8. Browse to VASL files directory and select the folder you created in Step 1. Click **Open** .  
The full path to the folder you selected is added to the **Extensions Directory** field.
9. Click **OK**.

The extensions are added to your VASL installation. Any buttons created by the extensions are added to your VASL controls dialog.