

Downloading Visual Studio for PC

Based on a handout by Eric Roberts and Julie Zelenski

In CS 106B, you have the option of writing your programs on the Mac or PC. For the Windows environment on a PC, you will write your programs using Microsoft's Visual Studio application. You can use Visual Studio on the computers in the public clusters on campus, or you can download a copy for your own machine, as described in the following section. If you're planning to work on one of the public-cluster computers, you should be able to skip this handout.

The download process is actually quite simple:

1. Visit <http://www.microsoft.com/visualstudio/en-us/products/2008-editions/express>
2. Select **Visual C++ 2008 Express Edition with SP1**. Do **not** download the 2010 edition, which causes problems with some of the functions in our Stanford libraries.
3. Follow the instructions to download the executable. (In particular, do not download the **.iso** file instead.)
4. Install without any fancy extensions: uncheck SQL Server, Silverlight, and so forth, if it prompts you during installation. Trust me – it's a major hassle to remove these once they're installed, and you're much better off just not installing them in the first place!

That should be it. You can launch the Visual C++ 2008 software standalone, though for the purposes of CS106B, you'll probably want to launch the development environment by clicking on the assignment starter project instead.