# Setting up your Windows 8 and Windows Phone 8 development environment

## Overview

**Prerequisite:** if you intend to use MobileFirst Studio to develop your application, first read the Setting up your development environment (../) tutorial.

Before you start to develop, deploy, and test your Windows Phone applications, an additional step is required for setting up the Windows 8 and Windows Phone 8 development environment. This includes installing Visual Studio 2012.

## Windows 8 and Windows Phone 8 development tools

Microsoft Visual Studio Express 2012 is an integrated development environment (IDE), which you can use to develop applications for either the Windows 8 or Windows Phone 8 platform.

**Note:** You must have a computer that runs *Windows 8* OS to use it.

To download Visual Studio Express 2012 for Windows Phone, visit the Microsoft Visual Studio download website (http://www.visualstudio.com/downloads/download-visual-studio-vs).