[0010] Installing Visual Studio Community Edition

Visual Studio is Microsoft's programming IDE. It is the most popular way to write C# programs. Please use these instructions for installing Visual Studio for this class.

It is critically important that you have a correctly installed copy of Visual Studio running on your computer in order to successfully complete this class. If you have ANY problems completing these installation instructions, please let me know.

Note: Visual Studio underwent a major upgrade in 2017 and 2019 and so any instructional videos/tutorials/etc. that were made before then can be misleading. This - unfortunately - includes Chapter 2 of our textbook. DO NOT USE THE INSTRUCTIONS IN CHAPTER 2 TO INSTALL VISUAL STUDIO. Use these instructions instead.

In this class, we will be using Visual Studio Community 2019.

Background

Visual Studio comes in several versions

- **Visual Studio Community 2019** - a free version that contains most of the same features as Visual Studio Professional. It doesn't contain any so-called "Enterprise features." It is only available for Windows and is only licensed for individual use. It can create programs for any .NET platform using a large collection of languages and plug-ins.
- **Visual Studio Community for Mac** -a free version that is focused on creating mobile, desktop and web applications that run on .NET Core and the Xamarin mobile .NET platform. It currently supports the C# and F# languages and is not compatible with VS plug-ins. While very similar to the Windows Community version, there are some differences that can be confusing at times.
- **Visual Studio Professional** - a paid version that contains all VS features except so-called "Enterprise features." It costs $499. It can be used by companies to create commercial software.

- **Visual Studio Enterprise** - a paid version that contains all VS features. It costs $5,999.00(!) for a 1-year subscription. We won't be using this version. ;-)
- **VS Code** - a new, free, really cool, cross-platform, open source code editor with many of the same features as Visual Studio. It runs on Windows, Mac and Linux and is becoming very popular with programmers. While this may be the future of C# programing, please use the older Visual Studio Community for this course.

I will be doing demonstrations and tutorials that assume you are using that configuration. We are using this version because it still the most common configuration in use today and has a large collection of online videos, books, articles, and tutorials.

If you are using a Mac: Mac users *can* use Visual Studio Community for Mac during this class however I do not recommend it. Visual Studio for Mac cannot create GUI applications using Windows Presentation Format (WPF) - something I will demonstrate towards the end of the course. If you are using Mac (or Linux), I recommending installing VirtualBox and creating a Windows 10 VM, then installing the Windows version of Visual Studio Community 2019 inside of that VM. If you need me to, I can help you with that process after class.

Installation Instructions

WINDOWS USERS - Click here: **[0011] Installing Visual Studio on Windows (https://lwtech.instructure.com/courses/1841516/pages/0011-installing-visual-studio-on-windows)**

MAC USERS - Click here: **[0012] Installing Visual Studio for the Mac (https://lwtech.instructure.com/courses/1841516/pages/0012-installing-visual-studio-for-the-mac)**