

Connecting a LEGO SPIKE Prime to Vuforia Spatial Toolbox on Windows

Estimated time to complete

30-60 minutes

Requirements

LEGO SPIKE Prime Hub & LEGO build
LEGO Education product feedback pamphlet
Computer with Bluetooth capabilities
Vuforia Spatial Toolbox compatible device
Vuforia Spatial Edge Server download from GitHub
Vuforia Spatial Toolbox app

Before diving into this portion of the project, it would be beneficial to get acquainted with the capabilities and functions of the Vuforia Spatial Toolbox. Starting at the [home page](#), review the following materials:

1. [What is Vuforia Spatial Toolbox?](#) YouTube video
2. [Getting Started with the Vuforia Spatial Toolbox](#)
3. [Getting Started](#) guide for using Vuforia Spatial Toolbox
4. [Spatial Tools](#) page documenting each spatial tool that can be used
5. [Spatial Programming](#) page for using Logic Nodes and each of its related pages for [Logic Blocks](#) and [Example Programs](#)

Feel free to explore the rest of the website as well, but these are the materials that will be critical to completing this part of the project.

Additionally, the LEGO SPIKE Prime Hub will need to be connected to the LEGO Educational SPIKE App. Open the app and become familiar with the capabilities of the LEGO SPIKE Prime. Learn how to connect it to Bluetooth with the beginning tutorials within the app.

Font Notes:

- All code to be typed in Command Prompt is designated by `text following this convention`
- All important notes are in ***bold italics***
- All folders to be opened in File Explorer are in *italics*
- All file names are underlined
- All buttons/areas that need to be clicked are in "quotations"
- All section headers are **bold**
- All references to other portions of the project are **bold and underlined**
- Hyperlinks are [blue and underlined](#)

Getting Started

This portion of the project will teach how to connect the LEGO SPIKE Prime set to Vuforia Spatial Toolbox. It will start out by providing steps for connecting the SPIKE Prime to the Vuforia Spatial Edge Server and then move into allowing the SPIKE Prime to be controlled by the Vuforia Spatial Toolbox app with the help of an image target.

Image Target

A key part of using the Vuforia Spatial Toolbox is an image target. This allows the app to scan a predetermined image that will signal the server to display an AR overlay onto the physical world as viewed through a mobile device or tablet. For this project, the feedback pamphlet that comes in each LEGO SPIKE Prime box will be used as the image target. ***This image has already been preconfigured in the Vuforia Spatial Edge Server that has been downloaded. If the pamphlet is not accessible, save the image below as a standalone picture and print it out and use it as the image target.***

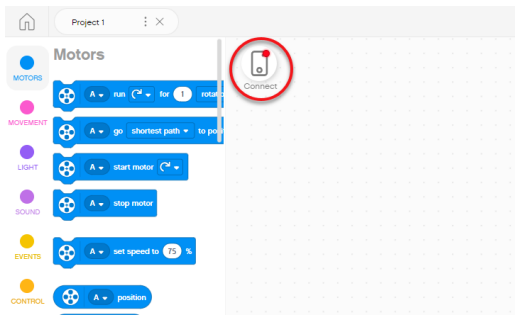
- If printing out the image is not an option, the pamphlet image will also scan off the computer monitor
- Resources for creating new image targets are in the [Appendices and Additional Resources](#) PDF for this project, though it is recommended that the SPIKE Prime feedback pamphlet is used if possible



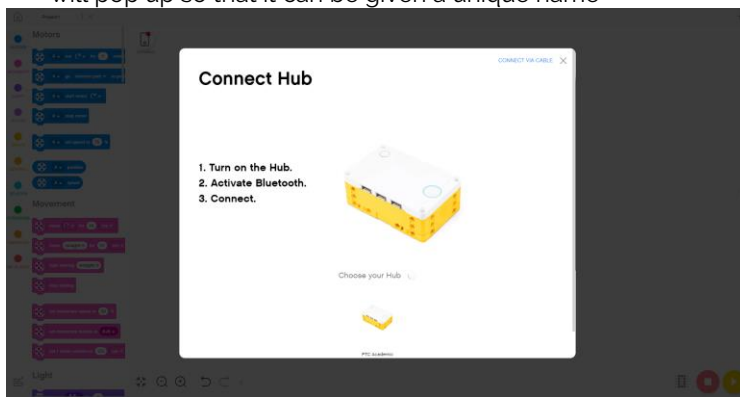
Connecting the LEGO SPIKE Prime Hub to a computer

When using a SPIKE Prime for the first time, it needs to be connected to a computer for it to be named, which plays a key part in connecting it to Vuforia Spatial Toolbox. This section will explain how to start the initial connection of the SPIKE Prime Hub.

1. Open the LEGO Educational SPIKE app and click "New Project" to start a new project. Choose the "Word Blocks" option, even though there will not be any coding inside of this interface.
2. Click the "Connect" button at the top of the page and turn on the SPIKE Prime Hub.



3. Ensure that the computer has Bluetooth enabled and choose the "CONNECT VIA BLUETOOTH" option at the top right-hand corner of the pop-up window
4. Turn on the SPIKE Prime Hub
5. Hold down the Bluetooth button on the corner of the Hub until it starts beeping and lights up
 - Make sure that the SPIKE Prime Hub is within range of the computer, otherwise it will not be able to connect
6. If the SPIKE Prime hub can connect to the computer, it will show up on the screen as a nearby Hub and will be recognized as a device by the computer
 - If this is the first time that the Hub is connected to the app, a prompt will pop up so that it can be given a unique name

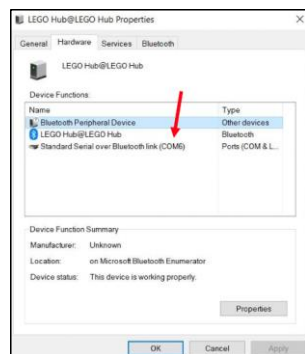


7. ***Once the SPIKE Prime Hub has been connected successfully, close out of the SPIKE app to avoid interference when connecting with Vuforia Spatial Toolbox***

Connecting a LEGO SPIKE Prime to Vuforia Spatial Toolbox

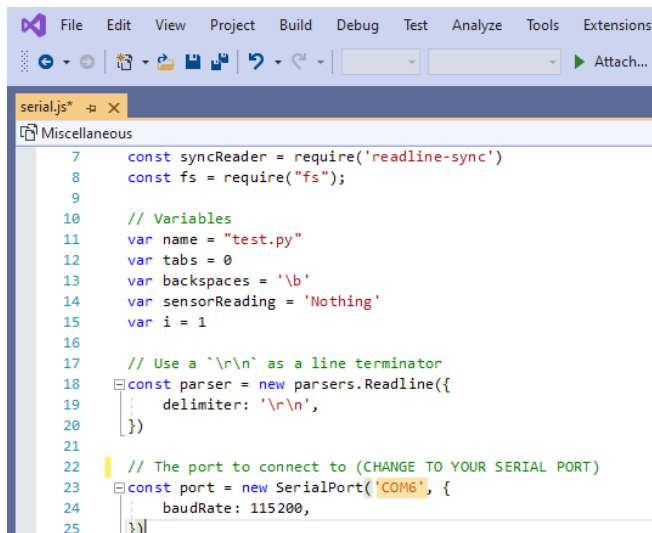
The following steps will describe the procedure of connecting a LEGO SPIKE Prime to Vuforia Spatial Toolbox via the Bluetooth connection on a computer and the Vuforia Spatial Toolbox mobile app. All code will be run in the Command Prompt.

1. Turn on the LEGO SPIKE Prime if it is not already on
2. Hit the Windows key on the keyboard and type in "Bluetooth" to go to Bluetooth and other devices settings. Ensure that Bluetooth is turned on and hold down the Bluetooth button on the LEGO SPIKE Prime until it is recognized by the computer. Pair the LEGO SPIKE Prime with the computer.
3. If the LEGO SPIKE Prime isn't immediately visible, look under the "other devices" heading and scroll down.
4. Select the "Devices and Printers" link at the bottom or right side of Bluetooth and other devices.
5. Scroll through the devices and search for a device that starts with "LEGO Hub@..." right click on the device, and select "Properties"
 - o If the SPIKE Prime Hub does not show up as a Bluetooth device, ensure that Bluetooth is enabled on the computer and that the Bluetooth button on the Hub has been pressed to prepare it for pairing
 - o Also ensure that the LEGO SPIKE App has been closed and disconnected from the SPIKE Prime Hub
6. In the new Properties window, navigate into the tab for "Hardware".
7. There should be a Device Function with the name "Standard Serial over Bluetooth Link". The COM name in the parenthesis is the serial port for the SPIKE Prime, take note of this.



- o **Troubleshooting note:** If this serial port cannot be found, open the LEGO Educational SPIKE app.
 - Unplug the LEGO SPIKE Prime from the computer if it is plugged in
 - Turn the SPIKE Prime off and then back on
 - Open a new project and select the "connect" button in the upper left-hand corner of the screen
 - Select "Connect via Bluetooth" in the upper right-hand corner of the window that pops up.
 - Follow the instructions from LEGO for Connecting via Bluetooth

- Be sure to close the LEGO SPIKE Prime from the app after connecting. This will block communication with the server if not disconnected.
 - Repeat the steps above.
8. Open the `serial.js` document inside of the path *SpatialToolbox-Windows-Interns/vuforia-spatial-edge-server/addons/Vuforia-spatial-robotic-addon/interfaces/SPIKE-Prime* in File Explorer.
- Go to line 23 of `serial.js` and replace the serial port with the one that was just taken note of. The part of the line that has `COMX`, where X is the number of the serial port that was found above. For example, the code at line 23 that was used when making this tutorial was `const port = new SerialPort('COM6', {`, where COM6 is the port that the PTC hub is connected to.



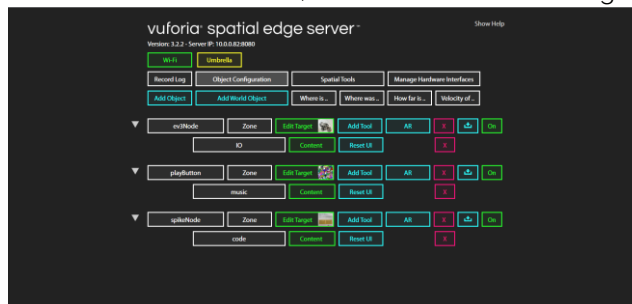
```

7   const syncReader = require('readline-sync')
8   const fs = require("fs");
9
10  // Variables
11  var name = "test.py"
12  var tabs = 0
13  var backspaces = '\b'
14  var sensorReading = 'Nothing'
15  var i = 1
16
17  // Use a '\r\n' as a line terminator
18  const parser = new parsers.Readline({
19    delimiter: '\r\n',
20  })
21
22  // The port to connect to (CHANGE TO YOUR SERIAL PORT)
23  const port = new SerialPort('COM6', {
24    baudRate: 115200,
25  })

```

9. Open a new Command Prompt window by clicking the Windows button on the keyboard and typing in "Command Prompt". This is where the commands to start the Vuforia Spatial Edge Server will be executed from.
10. In the Command Prompt, navigate to the vuforia-spatial-edge-server directory inside of SpatialToolbox-Windows-Interns with the code `cd Documents/SpatialToolbox-Windows-Interns/vuforia-spatial-edge-server`. If the *SpatialToolbox-Windows-Interns* folder is not saved in the Documents folder, replace `Documents` in the code above with whatever folder that *SpatialToolbox-Windows-Interns* is saved in.
11. Type `node -v` to check which version of Node.js was installed and take note
12. Run `npm install` while in the *SpatialToolbox-Windows-Interns/vuforia-spatial-edge-server* directory

- **If Node.js is a version other than v12.18.2, use `npm rebuild` to get the folder to work with the current version of Node.js. The server will not start if the without doing this if Node is a version other than v12.18.2.**
13. Navigate to the Spatial Robotic Addon folder using `cd addons/vuforia-spatial-robotic-addon` while still in the SpatialToolbox-Windows-Interns/vuforia-spatial-edge-server directory and run `npm install` again
 - These two commands will install all necessary packages for this project
 - **As with the step above, if Node.js is a version other than v12.18.2, use `npm rebuild` to get the folder to work with the current version of Node.js. The server will not start if the without doing this if Node is a version other than v12.18.2.**
 14. Enter `cd ../../` into the Command Prompt to navigate back to the SpatialToolbox-Windows-Interns/vuforia-spatial-edge-server directory
 15. Run `node server`. This should start the Vuforia Spatial Edge Server. Type localhost:8080 into a web browser. If the page does not load, troubleshoot using the methods below. If it does load, it should look like this image:



- **Troubleshooting Note:** the LEGO SPIKE Prime will make a beep shortly after running `node server` and connecting for the first time. This indicates that everything was connected correctly.
- **Troubleshooting Note:** if there is an error like the one below in the Command Prompt, it is okay. It is expected and this statement alone will not hinder this project. If there are more errors than just this one, refer to the troubleshooting suggestions below.

```
2020-07-10T18:34:04.280Z - error: '(node:904) MaxListenersExceededWarning: Possible EventEmitter memory leak detected. 11 readable listeners added to [SerialPort]. Use emitter.setMaxListeners() to increase limit'
```

16. If the readout in the Command Prompt shows something like the image below, then the server is working! The last two lines in this image describe what type of instrument is connected to the SPIKE Prime and which port that they are in. For example, there is a motor connected to port A and B, with the location in the instrument array corresponding to the location of the port that instrument is attached to in the port array.

```

2020-07-10T18:31:33.905Z - debug: 'Port open'
2020-07-10T18:31:34.625Z - debug:
[ 'motor', 'motor', 'none', 'none', 'distance', 'color' ]
2020-07-10T18:31:34.626Z - debug: 'A' 'B' 'none' 'F' 'E' 'none'

```

17. **Troubleshooting Notes:** There is the possibility that there may be issues when starting the server. Do not worry, most of these issues can be solved by restarting either the SPIKE Prime or the Vuforia Spatial Edge Server (control key + c and node server again in the Command Prompt).
 - If there are multiple error statements in the Command Prompt after running node server, like shown below, then the LEGO SPIKE Prime did not connect correctly. Restart the LEGO SPIKE Prime and confirm that the correct serial port is being used.

```

2020-07-10T18:34:04.280Z - error: '(node:904) MaxListenersExceededWarning: Possible EventEmitter memory leak detected. 11 readable listeners added to [SerialPort]. Use emitter.setMaxListeners() to increase limit'
2020-07-10T18:34:13.619Z - error: '(node:904) UnhandledPromiseRejectionWarning: Error: Error: Resource busy, cannot open /dev/tty.LEGOHub40BD3248762A-Ser'
2020-07-10T18:34:13.619Z - error: '(node:904) UnhandledPromiseRejectionWarning: Unhandled promise rejection. This error originated either by throwing inside of an async function without a catch block, or by rejecting a promise which was not handled with .catch(). To terminate the node process on unhandled promise rejection, use the CLI flag --unhandled-rejections=strict` (see https://nodejs.org/api/cli.html#cli_unhandled_rejections_mode). (rejection id: 1)'
2020-07-10T18:34:13.619Z - error: '(node:904) [DEP0018] DeprecationWarning: Unhandled promise rejections are deprecated. In the future, promise rejections that are not handled will terminate the Node.js process with a non-zero exit code.

```

- If there are errors in the Command Prompt that do not look like this, restart the Vuforia Spatial Edge Server by closing out of the Command Prompt and repeating the start up instructions.
18. Open the Vuforia Spatial Toolbox mobile app and point the camera at the image target. A light blue box should appear around the image target. If nothing seems to happen, try moving the camera/target or changing the lighting of the room. If the light blue box still isn't visible, then restart the mobile app.



- **Troubleshooting Notes:**

Commented [BM1]: Since this style is used for code I started to type it in to the terminal before realizing that it was saying to click those buttons, so a different font or something may be useful here

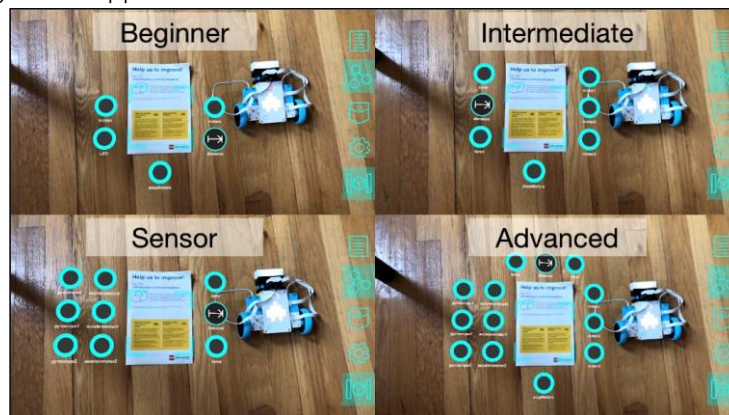
Commented [BM2]: Might want to add something to make sure that the phone is on the same network as the

Commented [DJ3]: Should add something about looking for objects to confirm that everything worked

- **The iPhone being used needs to be on the same Wi-Fi network as the computer being used to form a connection with the Vuforia Spatial Edge Server**
- If restarting still does not work, go into the settings tab in the Vuforia Spatial Toolbox app and go into Found Objects. Compare this list to the list of objects in the Vuforia Spatial Edge Server.
 - If objects are missing and the only thing showing up is "_WORLD_local", then there was an issue connecting the app and the Vuforia Spatial Edge Server and the connection process will need to be restarted
 - If the list of objects looks like the one below, but all of the font is red, then the app was opened too quickly. Closing out and then reopening the app should solve the issue.

	Name	Version	IP	Nodes	Links
	_WORLD_local	3.2.2	127.0.0.1		
	playButton	3.2.2	10.0.0.199		
	music			1	0
	ev3Node	3.2.2	10.0.0.199		
	IO			12	0
	spikeNode	3.2.2	10.0.0.199		
	code			7	0
	completeXDhfza91nj7i			1	0
	airtablee7i4sju5bjku			1	0
	numberY34jmg17vwyr			1	0

19. When in Programming Mode in the app, a node setup similar to one of the following should appear:



20.Changes to complexity levels can be made within the Vuforia Spatial Edge Server.

- Select the "Manage Hardware Interfaces" button from the home screen
- Click the gear icon next to Spike-Prime interface to open up settings for the SPIKE Prime.
- Change the setting called "spikeComplexity" by typing in one of the four options shown above (**all configurations should be typed in lower case letters**). For more information about the different nodes and complexity levels, visit **Appendix D** in the **Appendices and Additional Resources** document
 - When changing complexities, the server will need to be restarted. Go back into Terminal and press **control key + C** to stop the server and then start the process again while running **node server** in the vuforia-spatial-edge-server directory.

Commented [BM4]: It might be worth listing the options and when they would be used like it shows in the toolbox that way people know how to type them in and why they would change it. It also might be worth explaining that you have to type in the complexity, since it took me a bit of clicking and seeing nothing happen to realize that's how it works 😊

