



Introduction to the Labs

The objective of this document is to explain how and where you can access the files required to complete the exercises. Also included are notes on how Git and Github can be used.

Using the provided image to do the Labs

A remote image has been created which has Visual Studio 2022 pre-installed and all the necessary files you will need to complete the exercises. Your instructor will provide login details to gain access to your image. The image will be available to use until and including the last day of the course.

The lab files have been placed in a folder called "c:\courseware\AtosCourseFiles". This is referred to as the "installed folder" in the exercise guides.

The EG folder contains the exercise instructions.

The Labs folder contains sub-folders, one for each chapter, each of which will have further sub-folders of BEGIN, END and occasionally ASSETS and HINTS.

The BEGIN folder will be referred to in the exercise guide as the place where you can pick up the starter .sln for that exercise. If the BEGIN folder is empty, that will be because in that exercise you will start by creating a new project from scratch. When a starter project has been provided you will find that it has already been set up as a GIT repo. You will therefore be able to use the GIT tools/windows that come with Visual Studio to track changes etc. Where the BEGIN folder is empty there will not be a GIT repo but feel free to add one if you feel that will be of use.

The END folder contains a suggested solution to the exercise. The END folders do not come with GIT repos pre-built as they are meant to be a one-off answer.

The ASSETS and HINTS folders contain resources that you can make use of in order to save time. Their use is fully explained in the exercise guides.



Using your own machine to do the Labs

If you prefer, instead of using the provided virtual image, you can do the Labs on your own machines.

You will need Visual Studio 2022 and SqlExpress. If you have another version of Sql Server, you will need to alter the connectionStrings appropriately. You will also need to create the "Forum.Data" database which comes pre-built in the virtual image. This is used from exercise 15 onwards. You can use an EF migration to do this. If you need help with this ask your instructor.

The course was built using .net 6.0 so you will also need this. If you don't have it you can download the SDK here:-

<https://dotnet.microsoft.com/en-us/download/dotnet/6.0>

On this page you will also see a link to the Asp.Net Core Hosting Bundle. If you don't have it installed already you will need this to complete the final exercise on Deployment.

To get a copy of the Lab Files you can either "Git Clone" or download the files here:-

<https://github.com/Philjh/AtosStudentFiles.git>

Note that the BEGIN folders here will not come with GIT repos pre-built. If required you can create your own. (This was done to avoid having repos within repos which can be problematic).

