Egret Installation Guide

## Software Recommendations

I highly suggest that Egret be installed on a computer running Windows 10 with at least 100gb of hard drive space and 8gb of memory, but more is wise. Although the software requirements are not burdensome, and Egret can easily be installed on less than cutting edge systems, avoiding a complete reinstall has value, so it is worth using quality hardware from the beginning. A hard drive failure in the middle of the day, for example, could grind application usage to a halt and prove a heavy burden to restore.

Be sure that the computer is placed in a secure location and cannot easily be turned off by accident. A modest backup power source is recommended. Also, if you will be using Windows 10, as opposed to Windows Server, you may wish to research various “hardening” methods for reducing any potential security threats. This should be a computer dedicated to the application and database – this should not be a YouTube viewing station :-) . Do not install miscellaneous programs, and consider modifying the firewall to block all unnecessary ports (if you would like me to research the best ways to do this, I can, but I have not done this currently).

Egret has not been tested to modern security standards, and will not currently be using SSL over a local intranet. This can be configured, but it would require processes to be followed on each accessing machine to allow for secure communication. Nonetheless, modern security features have been implemented such as hashed passwords and authorization/authentication features. Some form of virus protection is recommended, but the default Windows Defender may be enough.

Make sure that your router is not running in “promiscuous mode” or communications between browsers and the server where Egret is installed may be susceptible to interception and modification.

## PostgreSQL

PostgreSQL is the database that Egret uses to store its data.

Install

1. Go to [https://www.postgresql.org](https://www.postgresql.org/)
2. The website may change, but go to Downloads, binaries for Windows.
3. In this document, I will be using version 12.0, but it will likely be safe to install newer versions. Install the 64-bit version installer, which will appear as Windows x86-64.
4. Run the installer. The installer may also install some C++ binaries. This is fine.
5. Use the default installation directory. It should be something like C:\Program Files\PostgreSQL\12
6. The password for test systems is typically postgres, but you may want to change this to make the system more secure. If you do change it, make sure you properly store the new password! There will be no way to get into the database later without this.
7. Most other defaults should be fine.

# PGAdmin

PGAdmin is the user interface typically used to interact with the PostgreSQL database. It runs in a web browser, but please note this is not accessed over the internet. PostgreSQL comes with a command line utility for interacting with your databases, but you will probably not want to deal with that unless you are an experienced user, so the installation of PGAdmin is recommended.

Install

1. Go to [https://pgadmin.org](https://pgadmin.org/)
2. Go to Downloads
3. Select the download for Windows
4. The latest version should be fine, but for this document I will be installing pgAdmin 4 v4.13
5. Look for and select the x86.exe, and run the installer when prompted
6. The default installation options should be fine
7. You will need to set a master password for the PGAdmin. This can be the same as the password for the PostgreSQL database.

You will need to find the icon for PGAdmin so that it is easily accessible.

1. Hit the search key, or click the start button
2. Search for PGAdmin 4
3. Right click the search result for PGAdmin 4 and select “Open File Location”
4. Right click the program in the new window and select “Send To… Desktop”
5. Open this file to open PGAdmin. Enter the password when prompted
6. By drilling down into the Servers on the left of the screen, you will find a database called postgres. This is the default database. Once Egret is installed, you will see a new database here called egret

# Visual Studio Community Edition

Visual Studio is a programming Integrated Development Environment (IDE). Normally, I would avoid having you install this yourself, but it is critical for setting the database up initially and will also be used for upgrades and potential rollbacks. Please note that Visual Studio Community Edition is free but requires a user account to register after a 30-day “trial” period. Sorry, there’s no good way around this.

Install

1. The website changes all the time. Just search Google for Visual Studio 2019, and select the official Microsoft site that appears first
2. Mouse over “Download Visual Studio” and select “Community 2019”. Don’t select the other versions unless you want to pay for them
3. Run the installer. This could take awhile!
4. You will be asked which features you would like to install with Visual Studio. If the options exist, select “ASP.NET and Web Development”, “Node.js Development”, and “.NET Core Cross-Platform Development”. For the optional tools, just go with whatever it auto-selected
5. Note that this is about 8gb of download. Yup, the joys of Microsoft products
6. Restart the computer when prompted
7. Search for Visual Studio
8. In the search results screen, right click Visual Studio 2019 and select Open File Location
9. Right click the Visual Studio 2019 shortcut and select Send To > Desktop

# Internet Information Services (IIS)

IIS is a web server that comes pre-installed on all versions of Windows, it just needs to be activated to use. IIS is how the application will serve up the web pages to the computers on your network.

Install

1. Hit Start or the Windows key and search for Programs and Features
2. On the Programs and Features window, select “Turn Windows features on or off” on the left side of the window
3. Scroll down to Internet Information Services and select the box. Don’t worry about additional options
4. Wait for the installation to complete, then close the window
5. Search for IIS
6. In the search screen, right click IIS and select Open File Location
7. Right click the shortcut in the window and select Send To > Desktop
8. We will configure IIS later

# Git

Git is a Version Control client that will be used for checking out the code files and any new update files.

Install

1. Go to https://git-scm.com/
2. Go to Downloads
3. The site should detect you are using Windows. Select the Latest source Release, often located in the teal image of a computer screen. The version should not matter
4. Run the installer
5. Use any default text editor. I would recommend Notepad++, but you will need to install this separately (it is free)
6. The other defaults should be fine

# Putting it All Together

We now have all the base programs required to get this running! It may seem like a lot, but this is actually fairly basic for most websites. The beauty of being a website user is that you never have to see these details behind the scenes, but the story is far more involved on the other side of things. I’ve tried to keep this as simple as possible, but some tools are just very necessary.

1. Navigate to Documents in File Explorer.
2. Right click and select “Git Bash Here”
3. Type “git clone <https://github.com/scottmcconkey/egret.git>” into the command line
4. Ta-da! You now have all of the Egret files. Further instructions will be sent for updating those files
5. Search for “.net core 3.1” online, and go to the Microsoft page to download this. The most recent patch should be fine.
6. Install the x64 installer
7. Close the window once it finishes isntalling
8. Open Visual Studio 2019 and go to File > Open > Project/Solution
9. In the Open window, navigate to your Documents > Egret > Egret.sln [note your file settings may be hiding extensions. You can turn this off in the Explorer settings or just keep an eye on the Type column]
10. I highly recommend displaying the Error window. To enable this, go to View > Error List in Visual Studio
11. In the “Connection Strings” section, note the Password is set to the default “postgres”. If you used a different password to set the database up, remove the default password and type your chosen password here
12. Next, select Build > Build Solution. Visual Studio will start to download necessary packages. This could take awhile! You will see a little progress indicator at the bottom of the screen
13. Note that subsequent builds should be much faster
14. Find the appsettings.json file
15. In Visual Studio, go to View > Other Windows > Package Manager Console
16. When it finishes loading, type the following command: “add-migration initial”
17. When this completes, type the following command: “update-database
18. If all goes well, the database should be ready to go

Congratulations! You should be able to run Egret from Visual Studio by going to Debug > Start Without Debugging. Please note that Internet Explorer 11 will NOT work with Egret, but any modern browser such as Firefox, Chrome, or Edge from the past few years should. If you encounter any issues with this, please let me know.

This is enough to begin testing Egret out locally, but this is not enough to serve Egret pages up over the network; this requires configuring IIS to do so. This will probably be the most involved aspect of setting Egret up, but hopefully I will have that done soon.

# Configuring IIS

1. (I do not know the deeper security implications of this, so be cautious) Navigate to C:\inetpub
2. Right click on wwwroot and go to the Security tab
3. Give Administrators Full Control and give IIS Users Modify and Write privileges. (I may want to research this to see if this is really necessary. I also went to Advanced and changed the Owner to Administrators. If you encounter any problems in the following steps with Publishing, let me know)
4. In Visual Studio, go to Build > Publish
5. For the publish target, select “IIS, FTP, etc” and go to Next
6. For the Publish method, select “File System” and enter “C:\inetput\wwwroot\” for the path. Got to Next
7. Select “Release” for the configuration, a target framework of “netcoreapp3.1”, which will probably be the only option
8. For the Databases default connection, check the box next to “Use this connection string at runtime”. The box should contain the connection string from your appsettings.json file
9. Click “Save” and then “Create Profile”, then click “Publish”
10. Go to the web, and search for “Download .NET Core 3.1” and find the appropriate Microsoft page
11. Download the 3.1.x (most recent) version of the ASP.NET Core/.NET Core Runtime and Hosting Bundle, and install
12. Go into IIS
13. Under Application Pools, right click and create a new Access Pool. Call it EgretPool and leave the defaults
14. Right click on Default Web and create a new Site. Call it Egret, change the application pool to EgretPool, specify a physical path of C:\inetput\wwwroot\Egret
15. [add MIME types]

[add environment variable]