Using Visual C++ 2005 Express to develop DesktopX plug-ins

# Install Visual C++ Express

You can download [Visual C++ Express](http://msdn.microsoft.com/vstudio/express/visualc/download/) from Microsoft site. It’s a 300+ megabytes download if you choose to install the MSDN Express that goes along with it.

# Install the Microsoft Platform SDK

[The platform SDK](http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyId=0BAF2B35-C656-4969-ACE8-E4C0C0716ADB) is also available on Microsoft Download Center. It comes with all the headers and libraries needed to develop windows applications.

*Note:* Don’t forget to install the Internet Explorer SDK; it includes a file needed later (xmldom.idl).

# Install Visual C++ Express SP1

Install [Service Pack 1](http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?familyid=7B0B0339-613A-46E6-AB4D-080D4D4A8C4E&displaylang=en) for Visual C++ Express

# Configure Visual Studio Express to use the Platform SDK

Follow the instructions on [this page](http://msdn.microsoft.com/vstudio/express/visualc/usingpsdk/) to configure Visual C++ Express to use the platform SDK files and to allow Win32 application development.