

# Visual C++ Environment

In this first lab, you will become acquainted with a software package that will allow you to create, compile and run C++ programs. Visual C++ is a product of Microsoft and is one component of Visual Studio (a complete set of programming language environments). The following steps walk you through most of the commands needed for this course.

## I. Pre-lab Assignment

1. Be sure to read Lesson Set 1 Pre-lab Reading Assignment and do the Pre-lab Writing Assignment before coming to class.
2. Make sure you have a working password or some means of logging on to your particular computer system. Check with your instructor.

## II. Visual C++ environment

1. Make sure you are logged on the system.
2. Select Start→All Programs→Visual Studio (Your particular system may have an alternative way of accessing Visual C++, check with your instructor).
3. You must import a source file into a project before you will be able to compile and run it.
4. Once you are in the Visual C++ environment you are ready to open or create a project.

## III. Importing an Existing File into a Project

1. Start Visual Studio. To start a new project, click **File** on the menu bar, then click **New**, then click **Project**.
2. The New Project dialog box appears. Under Installed → Templates (the left pane) make sure **Visual C++** is selected and select **Win32**. Under the adjacent pane (the right pane), select **Win32 Console Application**.
3. We will name this project FirstProg. Enter **FirstProg** in the Name text box. Click the **Ok** button to continue.
4. You should see the Win32 Application Wizard dialog box. Click the **Application Settings** options. In the next dialog box make sure that **ConsoleApplication** and **Empty Project** are both selected. Click the **Finish** button to create the project.
5. Your instructor will tell you where and how to access the programs stored for this lab course, hereafter called the lesson folder.
6. Let's add the `firstprog.cpp` file from the lesson folder to the project. In the Solution Explorer window, *right-click* the Source Files folder. On the menu that pops up select **Add**, then select **Existing Item...**  
You should now see the Add Existing Item dialog box. Browse to the lesson folder and select the file `firstprog.cpp` and click the **Add** button.

7. You can now compile and run this program by going to the **Debug menu** and selecting **Start Without Debugging** (or by pressing **Ctrl + F5**).
8. The program runs and shows an output display window. What is printed on the screen?
9. Hit any key and the message disappears.
10. You have now completed Lab 1.1 and are ready to begin Lab 1.2.