# C++ Getting Started

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## C++ Get Started

To start using C++, you need two things:

* A text editor, like Notepad, to write C++ code
* A compiler, like GCC, to translate the C++ code into a language that the computer will understand

There are many text editors and compilers to choose from. In this tutorial, we will use an IDE (see below).

## C++ Install IDE

An IDE (Integrated Development Environment) is used to edit AND compile the code.

Popular IDE's include Code::Blocks, Eclipse, and Visual Studio. These are all free, and they can be used to both edit and debug C++ code.

**Note:** Web-based IDE's can work as well, but functionality is limited.

We will use **Code::Blocks** in our tutorial, which we believe is a good place to start.

You can find the latest version of Codeblocks at [http://www.codeblocks.org/](https://www.codeblocks.org/downloads/binaries/). Download the mingw-setup.exe file, which will install the text editor with a compiler.

## C++ Quickstart

Let's create our first C++ file.

Open Codeblocks and go to **File > New > Empty File**.

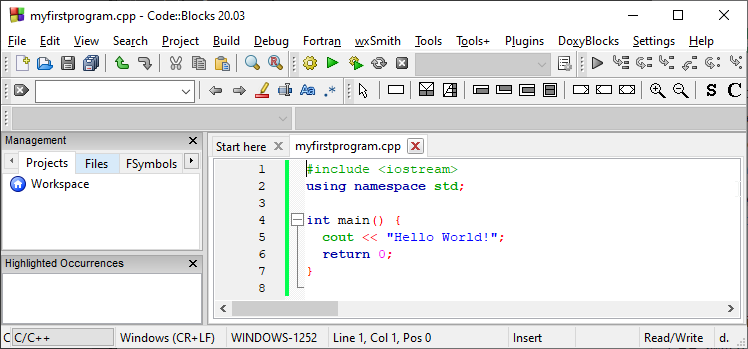
Write the following C++ code and save the file as myfirstprogram.cpp (**File > Save File as**):

#### **myfirstprogram.cpp**

#include <iostream>  
using namespace std;  
  
int main() {  
  cout << "Hello World!";  
  return 0;  
}

Don't worry if you don't understand the code above - we will discuss it in detail in later chapters. For now, focus on how to run the code.

In Codeblocks, it should look like this:



Then, go to **Build > Build and Run** to run (execute) the program. The result will look something to this:

Hello World!  
Process returned 0 (0x0) execution time : 0.011 s  
Press any key to continue.

**Congratulations**! You have now written and executed your first C++ program.

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### **myfirstprogram.cpp**

Code:

#include <iostream>  
using namespace std;  
  
int main() {  
  cout << "Hello World!";  
  return 0;  
}

Result:

Hello World!

[Try it Yourself »](https://www.w3schools.com/cpp/trycpp.asp?filename=demo_helloworld)