

Visual Studio and the AWS Toolkit

In this class we will use Visual Studio, an Integrated Development Environment (IDE) developed by Microsoft. There are many editions of Visual Studio. Luckily, the edition we will use (Visual Studio Community Edition) is free and platform-independent (that is, you can run it on both Windows and macOS).

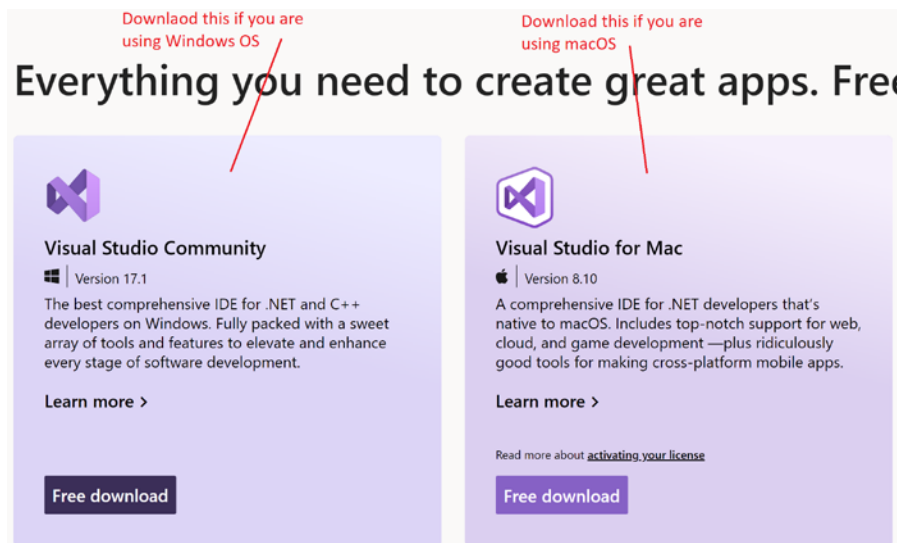
Install Visual Studio Community Edition

FAQ: I already have Visual Studio (Community edition or some other edition). What should I do?

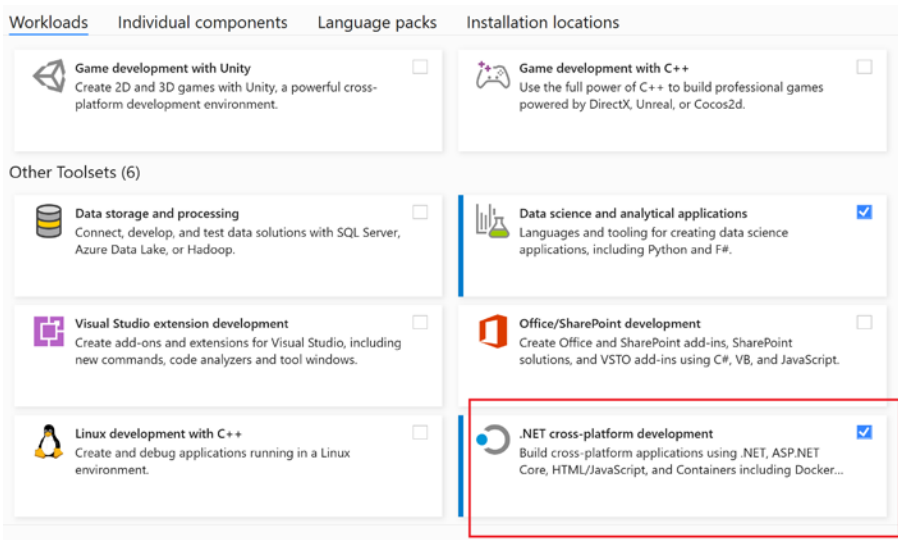
In this case skip this section and continue on page 2 with section “Install AWS Toolkit for Visual Studio”.

If you don’t have Visual Studio, then follow the steps below to download and install it:

1. Go to [this page](#).
2. Download and install the **Visual Studio Community** edition (select the one that targets your OS).



3. When you install Visual Studio you might see a window that asks you to choose features/tools to include. Make sure you check the “.NET cross-platform development” feature (see below):



4. After downloading and installing it, verify that you can open it.

In some cases, when you open Visual Studio for the first time, it might ask you what programming language you plan to use. If it does, choose C# (this does not mean that it will restrict you to C# only – so don't be afraid of choosing C#).

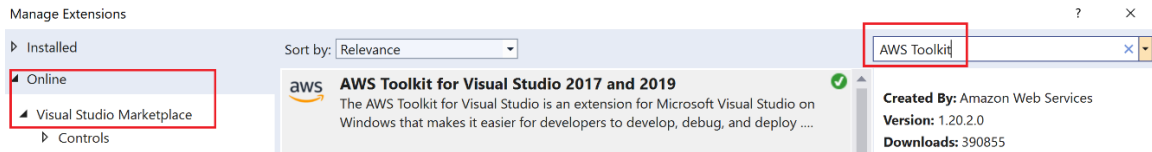
Install AWS Toolkit for Visual Studio

What is AWS Toolkit?

AWS Toolkit is a set of tools that makes it easy to create, debug, and deploy applications on AWS. There are AWS Toolkits for all popular IDEs (Visual Studio, VSCode, Eclipse, IntelliJ, etc.). Here we are interested in the AWS Toolkit for Visual Studio.

Follow the following steps to install the AWS Toolkit for the Visual Studio Community edition you installed in the previous section:

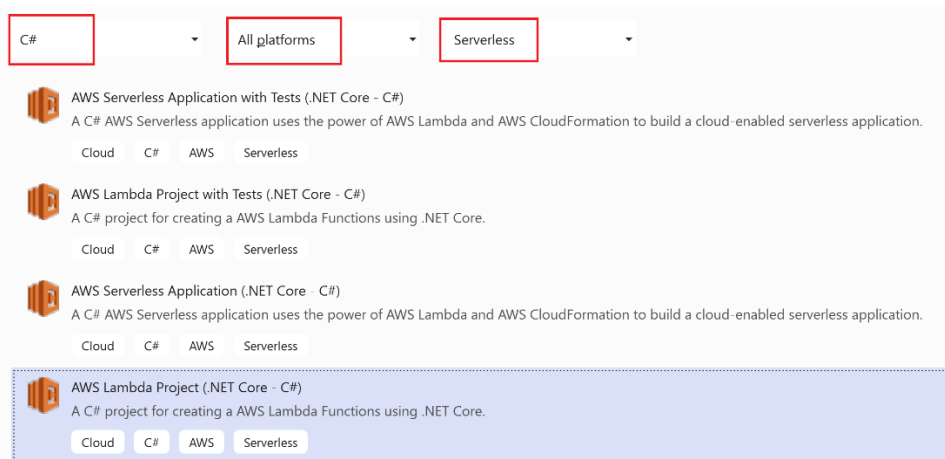
1. If you don't have Visual Studio open, then open it.
2. Click menu **Extensions** → **Manage Extensions**. This opens a dialog titled "Manage Extensions".
3. While **Online – Visual Studio Marketplace** is selected, type **AWS Toolkit** in the Search box and press the Enter key. This should bring the AWS Toolkit for Visual Studio into view:



4. Select it and click the **Download** button.

Test that You Can Create AWS Projects:

1. Close Visual Studio and re-open it.
2. Click menu **File** → **New Project**.
3. You can filter on what type of project you want to create. For example, choose the following and Visual Studio will search for existing templates and show them to you.



You should see in this case a few AWS project templates that you can choose from. These AWS templates (among other things) were installed by the AWS Toolkit you installed.