
How to Install the MinGW Tools for C/C++

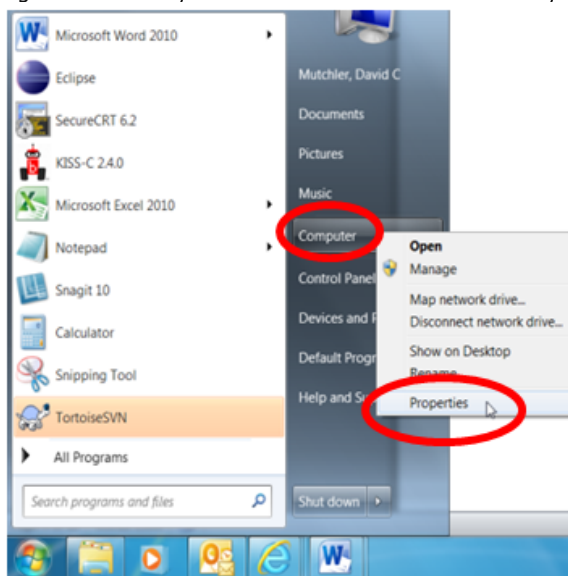
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Overview

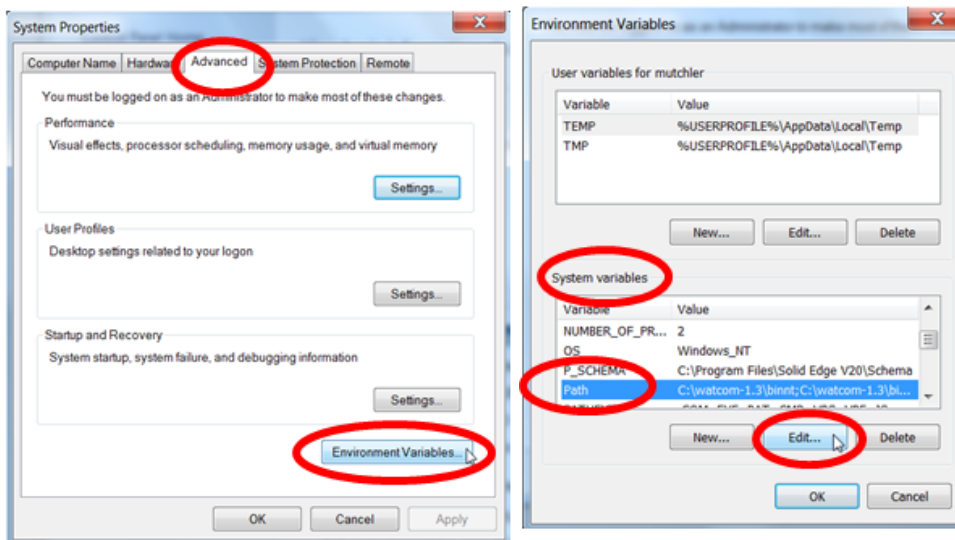
Follow these directions to the MinGW tools for developing code in C/C++. (All RHIT laptops came with MinGW installed)

Install the MinGW Tools for C/C++

1. Log in to your regular user account.
2. Download this [MinGW folder](#) and run it. Your browser may warn that "This file is not commonly downloaded and may harm your computer", but run it anyway. (In one dialog box, selecting 'additional options' allowed it to run. This installation will download various files from the web.
3. **Accept the default installation folder C:\MinGW. Do NOT attempt to place in C:\Program Files\MinGW.** (location cannot have spaces)
4. At the *Select Component* dialog, check the **MSYS Basic System**.
5. Add the **C:\MinGW\bin** folder to your Windows Path variable. To do this:
 - a. Right-click on *Computer* in the Start Menu and select *Properties*.

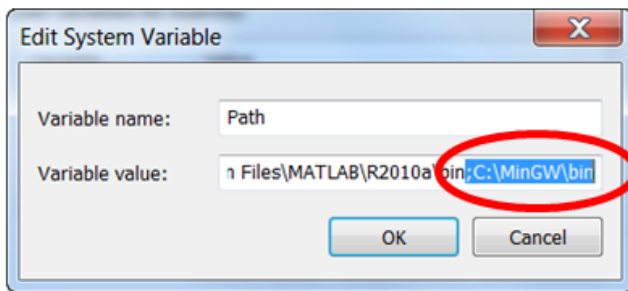


- b. Click on "Advanced System Settings", choose the *Advanced* tab, then click *Environment Variables*.



- c. Under *System Variables*, scroll down and select *Path*, then click Edit.
- d. **Carefully** (use the right-arrow or End keys) go all the way to the right of the **Variable value** field. **Be sure not to delete anything!** **Deleting here breaks things!**
- e. Add to the end of that field (include the semicolon)

```
;C:\MinGW\bin
```



- f. Click OK three times to exit.
6. Next, verify that the MinGW install was successful. Here's how:
 - a. Click Start and type **cmd** in the search field, then press Enter.
 - b. In the window that appears, enter `gcc` and press the Enter key again.
 - c. You should get a response `gcc: no input files`. This means that Windows could find the gcc program, which is what we want. If you get any other response, then verify that you set the path correctly in step 5e above. (For the curious, gcc stands for Gnu C Compiler.)



A screenshot of a Windows Command Prompt window. The title bar reads "Command Prompt". The window content shows the following text: "Microsoft Windows [Version 6.1.7601] Copyright (c) 2009 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved." followed by a prompt "C:\Users\" and the command ">gcc". The output is "gcc: no input files". The prompt "C:\Users\" and the command ">" are shown on the next line.

```
Microsoft Windows [Version 6.1.7601]
Copyright (c) 2009 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\      >gcc
gcc: no input files

C:\Users\      >
```