Hands-on labs for Windows 8

Learn to create a Windows Store app using  
C# and XAML

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# Welcome!

The hands-on labs in this package immerse you in Windows 8 app development—specifically, development of a Windows Store app using C# and XAML.

As you work through this series of labs you’ll create Contoso Cookbook, a beautiful, functional, realistic app that makes use of some of the key new features available in Windows 8. By the end of the series, you will know much of what you need to know to build your own great app for the Windows Store.

Please take a moment to read this introduction, which tells you a bit more about the labs and how to get set up to use them.

**Important**  Your use of the materials in this package is governed by the terms of the license included in this package (**License.html**).

# What’s in the package

You’ve downloaded and extracted the contents of the hands-on lab package, so you now have the following folders on your computer:

* Assets
* Lab 1 - Creating a Windows Store app
* Lab 2 - Orientation, snapping, and Semantic Zoom
* Lab 3 - Searching and sharing
* Lab 4 - App bars and media capture
* Lab 5 - Process Lifetime Management
* Lab 6 - Settings and preferences
* Lab 7 - Tiles and notifications

Lab 8 - The Windows Store APIs

In the Assets folder you’ll find the basic resources—mainly images and data—that you’ll need to create Contoso Cookbook as you work through the series of labs.

Each numbered Lab folder contains two items:

* Lab.docx—The lab instructions, in Microsoft Word document format.

Solution—A subfolder that contains the Contoso Cookbook source files in the state that they should be when you complete the lab. You can use these solution files to continue with the next lab if you didn’t finish the current one.

**Note** The lab instructions occasionally mention that you can find something in the “starting materials.” This typically refers either to resources in the Assets folder or to the Solution folder for a particular lab.

# Getting set up

To work with these hands-on labs, you must run Windows 8 on your computer and use an edition of Microsoft Visual Studio 2012 for Windows 8 (including Visual Studio Express 2012).

To get what you need, go to [Downloads](http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/p/?LinkId=263483) on the Windows Dev Center for Windows Store apps.

**Important** The labs in this series work only with the versions of Windows 8 and Visual Studio 2012 that are currently available for download on the Windows Dev Center. They do not correspond to or work with earlier preview versions of Windows 8 (Developer Preview, Consumer Preview, or Release Preview).

# Important note about the recipes

**Please be aware that the recipes supplied as data for the Contoso Cookbook sample app are not real recipes.** They are intended only to demonstrate the handling and presentation of data in a Windows Store app. The ingredients, instructions, and other details are fictitious, so please do not attempt to actually prepare any of the recipes described in Contoso Cookbook.

# You’re on your way

It’s time to begin! Go to the **Lab 1 – Creating a Windows Store app** folder, open Lab.docx, and follow the instructions. When you’re done with Lab 1, move on through the other labs, in order, to complete the Contoso Cookbook exercise.

Have fun!