

Digital Images in C++

C++ itself doesn't have any built-in support for images, graphics or user-interfaces. All of those capabilities are added using libraries. Click on the little Running-Man in the right to open the **Replit** project for this lesson. Make sure you **Fork the Repl** to get your own copy to work on.



We're going to use the **stb_image** and **stb_image_write** libraries, written by [Sean T. Barret](#) (stb) and placed into the public domain. These libraries provide the ability to read and write several different image formats, in several different ways. Both are **C libraries** instead of C++ libraries.

The STB libraries are **header only** libraries. That means you only need to include the header file; there is no separate library to compile and link to. **I've already added the header files to the Repl you are working with in this lesson.**

In your own programs, <https://github.com/nothings/stb> download the latest version of the **stb_image.h** and **stb_image_write.h** from the GitHub site and place both files in your project folder. To make sure that the implementation is included, **in one file**, you need the **following preprocessor directives** before you include them:

```
#define STB_IMAGE_IMPLEMENTATION      // REQUIRED (Loading)
#define STB_IMAGE_WRITE_IMPLEMENTATION // writing
#include "stb_image.h"                // "header-only" C Libraries
#include "stb_image_write.h"
```

I've already added these to **main.cpp** in the Repl you are working with.



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