

The results are in! See what nearly 90,000 developers picked as their most loved, dreaded, and desired coding languages and more in the 2019 Developer Survey.

Cannot open Visual Studio - throw error 'cannot run when setup is in progress'

[Ask Question](#)

I am trying to open Visual Studio, but it is giving an error:

86

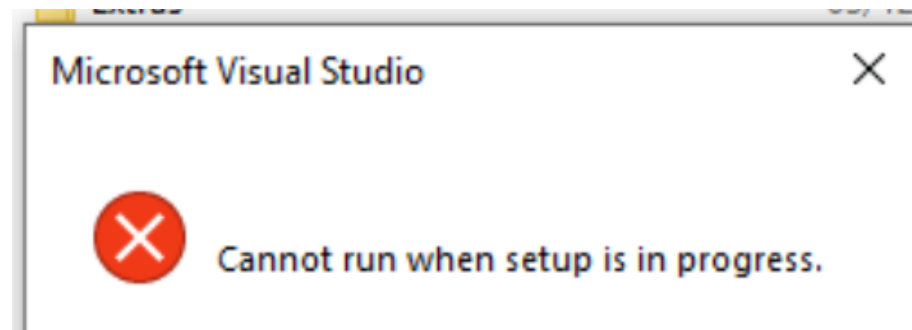
cannot run when set up is in progress

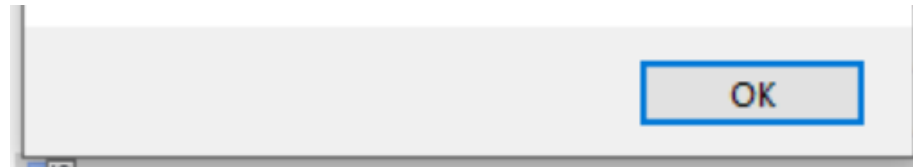


It was running fine before when I restarted my machine. I have already installed this version from past one year.



7





visual-studio

edited Dec 3 '18 at 8:26



Nicolas Raoul

34.3k 47 163 293

asked Dec 18 '14 at 3:34



maxspan

4,617 4 40 63

- 2 It might be that Visual Studio is being upgraded by Windows Update (patch microsoft.com/en-us/download/...) as a critical patch was released a few days ago... Not sure if it gets forced through Windows Update though... It might also be the installation of support.microsoft.com/kb/3002339 – [jessehouwing](#) Dec 21 '14 at 22:29 ✎

@jessehouwing Could be that Microsoft is simply attempting to force everyone to upgrade to Update 4, but however I have Update 3 on Visual Studio 2013 Ultimate (yes, it's genuine and legally obtained via Microsoft's Dreamspark programme) and can confirm that it's not showing this message for me. – [AStopher](#) Dec 21 '14 at 22:37

Check your Windows Update history to see if it's trying (and failing) to install a Visual Studio patch. Generally starting any Visual studio

(update|patch) installer will prevent any instance of visual studio to start. – [jessehouwing](#) Dec 21 '14 at 22:39

- 5 On 2018-03-19, this happened to me with Visual Studio 2017 Enterprise (15.6.2). Task Manager revealed a VSIXAutoUpdate.exe was running. I probably have some Extensions with the "automatically update" checkbox set, which probably explains why I could not start VS 2017. Once that extension auto updater finished, I was then able to start Visual Studio 2017 Enterprise (15.6.2). – [user3785010](#) Mar 19 '18 at 12:41

Typical MS approach: I am updating down your throat whether you want

20 Answers

▲ Go to task manager and end the VS Auto Update task. It will work fine.

0



answered Apr 5 at 4:20



Jai
1

▲ What I found on Task Manager was that a VS Preview 2019 version was updating while I was trying to start my production version of VS2017. Never had the problem before. I waited, as many others suggest, about 3 minutes and the problem subsided with not consequential repercussions. Felt a LOT better that way rather than nuking a task through Task Manager. :-)

2



answered Feb 6 at 14:53



HumbleBeginnings
637 7 16

▲ Try to check [Task Manager](#) and kill any process related to Visual Studio (any version).

81



Update:

as many people mentioned in the comments it is better to wait a while until those processes end themselves

edited Dec 20 '18 at 17:17

Home

PUBLIC

Stack Overflow

Tags

Users

Jobs

Teams

Q&A for work



[Learn More](#)

answered Jun 11 '15 at 8:11

[George Botros](#)

2,206 1 19 43

1 it's working thanx dude – [Satish Kumar sonker](#) Jan 9 '17 at 7:17

Thanks. It works like a charm. – [Thomas.Benz](#) Oct 28 '17 at 12:32

13 Surely this will allow you to start VS immediately. But aborting an update process may lead to failures. Better wait 3 minutes (until VSIXAutoUpdate.exe closes itself) and try again. – [Jack Miller](#) Apr 18 '18 at 6:16

3 Now it says "The setup for the visual studio installation is not complete. Please run the visual studio installer again" lol – [nfgallimore](#) Jul 19 '18 at 14:08

Yea. Probably not a great idea to kill process while they doing updated, eh? If the process doesnt stop just restart the PC and try again, restart will gracefully stop any processes instead of just killing it – [ppumkin](#) Nov 12 '18 at 8:56



33

Not exactly an answer to the original question, but if you need to run VS during setup, you can use the undocumented `/AllowDuringSetup` command line switch.

[edited Oct 29 '18 at 10:59](#)



answered Dec 1 '15 at 14:34

[Tereza Tomcova](#)

3,327 2 22 25



Root Cause: If, We shutdown the system with out closing the visual

8

studio properly and next time we will open the system then some times we will get this issue due to setup will run at background.

Fix: No need to do any thing just wait for 10 to 15 minutes and open the visual studio again. It will automatically fix the issue.

answered Oct 10 '18 at 5:02



Chandramouli

103 1 8

0

I experienced the same issue today(VS 2015 update 3). Noticed that the service "VSStandardCollectorService140" was stopped. (I had a blue screen error when i logged of yesterday. May be something related to that) . Restarted this service and it's working

edited Oct 8 '18 at 0:32



Stephen Rauch

30.4k 15 37 59

answered Oct 8 '18 at 0:12



Jerry

6 4

3

I get this error message when an update has been pushed to Visual Studio, but failed for some reason.

To fix this, follow the steps below (Windows)

Settings > Apps > Visual Studio Installer > Click 'Modify'

You should see an error message saying something like "Updates could not be applied" and you can click the button to retry.

In my latest instance, it was a small update to the .NET Desktop Development Workload that hadn't downloaded or installed correctly.

answered Sep 26 '18 at 12:09

[IfElseTryCatch](#)

358 5 10

60

I had this problem with Visual Studio 2017. There were processes in Task Manager named `VSIXAutoUpdate.exe`. I watched Task Manager and they were spawning and despawning. A few times, a Visual Studio 2017 process would spawn and despawn.

After VSIX Auto Updater stopped showing up in Task Manager, it had applied all of it's background updates and I was able to launch Visual Studio.

I wouldn't recommend killing these processes in the middle of them installing updates, like other answers to this question suggest. Just wait until they finish by watching Task Manager.

edited May 25 '18 at 5:18

[Bruno Bieri](#)

4,760 5 42 65

answered Feb 5 '18 at 21:33

[Dewey Vozel](#)

992 8 16

2 Yes waiting is a good option, after 2-3 minutes it's starting properly. But I did not get this popup until last week. Since then, it occurs every day (?) on only 1 of my 2 machines with VS (?) both have an updated W10, so.. – [Goodies](#) Feb 12 '18 at 8:15

1 Had a situation where the VSIX Auto Updater would start and just sit there doing noting. Ending it fixed the problem. I assume it was stuck trying to complete a failing install. – [Gone Coding](#) Apr 13 '18 at 8:03

Yes, I just waited a bit until no processes showed any more.. Like 3 minutes (brewed up) and it started fine. – [ppumkin](#) Nov 12 '18 at 8:57

I waited. reading this post. Bv the time I read this comment I was able to

open VS2017 – [Kirsten Greed](#) Dec 17 '18 at 19:09

- ▲
1
▼
- Only way I found to 'EASE' the suffering is to open win 10 task manager and right click VSIXAutoUdate.exe, in context menu select go to details, right click the VSIXAutoUdate.exe again and in context menu select set priority and select realtime..... as I said this is to Ease the suffering not to end it

answered May 18 '18 at 7:07



[Johnny](#)
11 2

vs studio updates are suffering. facing the same issue today – [kkarakk](#)
Dec 13 '18 at 5:44

- ▲
0
▼
- I had the same problem. My problem was VSIXAutoUpdate. I had waited until the end of the processing. You can see VSIXAutoUpdate in Task Manager (Ctrl + Alt + Del). VSIAutoupdate could be a malware sometimes so you must check details inside the properties in Task Manager (right click on VSIXAutoUpdate). You can see the web page below:

<https://www.file.net/process/vsixautoupdate.exe.html>

answered May 18 '18 at 6:33



[Angelo Stimolo](#)
1

- ▲
0
▼
- You can lunch [Task Manager](#) or Process Hacker and terminate [VSSVC.exe](#). It is part of the Shadow Copy service which is utilized by system restore as well as system file protection and the "previous file version" feature, but may cause problems. Restore points are

created automatically during system changes.

answered May 2 '18 at 15:16



[Roman Svitukha](#)

523 4 13

Visual Studio 2017, I had to end these processes:

0

- Visual Studio 2017
- TFS Power Tool Shell Extension

and then I could start VS2017.

answered Mar 12 '18 at 8:55



[kristoffer_o](#)

431 4 6

In my task manager there is process for visual studio 2012 update i
End that process and my VS 2015 working fine... Go to Task
Manager and look for any(version) VS update process and just End
that process.

-1

answered Dec 19 '17 at 7:31



[malik saifullah](#)

149 1 4

This happened to me when I attempted to fire up Visual Studio just
after start up.

22

I couldn't see any Visual Studio or installer processes running in
[Task Manager](#), but I waited 5 minutes or so, tried again, and it
opened.

edited Aug 4 '17 at 13:23



Peter Mortensen

13.9k 19 87 114

answered Jul 2 '17 at 12:26



Taran

5,726 3 30 34

This is exactly what happened to me too. I killed any process I thought could be related and nothing. After reading this I tried launching it again and it just worked. – [Zakk Diaz](#) Oct 18 '17 at 17:35

Genuinely just happened to me as described. Hadn't launched VS and there was nothing in Task Manager Visual Studio-ey. Just tried launching it again. Bingo. *shrug* – [Craig Brett](#) Dec 11 '17 at 8:31

I restarted my system, waited for more than 30 mins, I checked task manager no process is running, but still I am getting error message. – [Sri Chatala](#) Feb 5 '18 at 14:20

Launch [Task Manager](#) and kill the Windows installer.

1

edited Aug 4 '17 at 13:22



Peter Mortensen

13.9k 19 87 114

answered Aug 29 '16 at 6:36

[önder çalbay](#)

27 1

Launch [Task Manager](#) and end any process related to Visual Studio.

-1

edited Aug 4 '17 at 13:21



Peter Mortensen

13.9k 19 87 114

answered Jul 1 '16 at 5:15



Shabinesh Shankar

1 2

-
- 1 This does not provide an answer to the question. Once you have sufficient [reputation](#) you will be able to [comment on any post](#); instead, [provide answers that don't require clarification from the asker](#). - [From Review](#) – [abarisone](#) Jul 1 '16 at 9:23

@abarisone i was facing the same issue . But When i ended process relating to Visual studio and launched visual studio it worked form me. – [Shabinesh Shankar](#) Jul 7 '16 at 8:58

2

If none of the aforementioned solutions help (which was the case for me), I've got another suggestion. Go to the control panel, and under "Programs and Features", click "Uninstall a Program".

You'll get this big window with all of your installed applications in it. If you tried to install an SDK or something and the program stopped working after that, find all the Visual Studio-related programs with an installation date that is the same as the date you began encountering the issue. Right click them, and if a 'Repair' option is available, click that. If not, click 'Uninstall', and then, in the window that opens after that, click 'Repair'.

So essentially, you're repairing everything Visual Studio-related that was installed on the same day you began seeing issues. It worked for me after installing an Azure SDK and seeing this error.

edited Aug 4 '17 at 13:19



Peter Mortensen

13.9k 19 87 114

answered May 27 '16 at 18:17



Flinch

21 1

Thanks man! This solved my issue with VS2017. I suspect PC shutdown during updates, leaving unfinished installation. – [Nenad](#) Apr 6 '17 at 7:53

awesome dude - my setup was interrupted by sudden power-down and this solved the issue. – [Pupsik](#) Aug 14 '18 at 6:07

- ▲
0
- Most likely Visual Studio is being updated as the error message insinuates and if you wait a few minutes for the update to finish you should be able to run Visual Studio again without problems.
- ▼
- If the problem persists or if you're just curious, open up your task manager and see if there is anything related to (Microsoft) Visual Studio running but don't just kill the process. Check instead if the process is using any resources - if it has a high I/O count, then it's actually updating and you should let it do its thing. If CPU-usage and memory usage remain mostly constant and there is no disk activity for the process for several minutes, this could mean that the process is stuck. You might have to kill it, but proceed with caution. Hopefully if this is an update for Visual Studio, the process name should include a version number or some sort of indication of what kind of update is being applied that you can use to search for more information through a search engine or through Microsoft's online resources.

answered Apr 13 '16 at 20:51

[Mellow](#)



621 6 13

That worked for me... I was looking in the Task Manager to see what I could kill to try again and I noticed a running process ended and vanished from the list. It was in the right position to be part of the VS updater, so I figured what the hell and tried to launch it... kicked off just fine. –

[jrypkahauer](#) Jan 31 '18 at 19:39 



Go to Task Manager. Under processes look for vns. Click End Process.

3



answered Jun 24 '15 at 9:45

[Simon Gamble](#)

97 1 2



Try restarting your computer. That worked for me.

7



answered Jun 23 '15 at 12:28

[MasterProgrammer200](#)

556 1 10 25

several times i have restarted my PC but its doesn't work for me –

[Satish Kumar sonker](#) Jan 9 '17 at 7:15

This did the trick for me as well. – [Zeliox](#) Feb 20 at 7:21