

Windows 8 launches a world of opportunity for student developers. It is Windows made faster, more fluid and responsive to touch. And it puts apps and active live tiles at everyone's fingertips.

You can be a first mover in this amazing app revolution, and build Windows 8 apps that could launch your career.

This guide will point you to the right developer tools, tutorials, and resources. Jump in. The next generation is what you make it.

3 steps to build your Windows 8 app



it's easy to do



GET YOUR DEV TOOLS

Download the software and tools you need at DreamSpark.com. It's free for students.



BUILD AND TEST YOUR APP

We'll point you to instructive videos, hands-on labs, sample code and more.



PUBLISH YOUR APP

Your app will be available to millions of people at the Windows Store.

get your development tools



START BY GETTING WINDOWS 8

You must have Windows 8 installed on your computer. Windows 8 apps require the Windows 8 API for design and testing.

Discover ways to get Windows 8. Choices include:

- Free with your school's DreamSpark subscription
- Free 90-day trial
- Special student offers and upgrades

Learn more at DreamSpark:
<http://aka.ms/w8gsg01>

GET VISUAL STUDIO AND ALL THE TOOLS

At DreamSpark, we packaged together all the software and tools you will need to create Windows 8 apps – at no charge to students. One click lets you download Visual Studio 2012 Express for Windows 8, including:

- Windows 8 Software Development Kit
- Blend for Visual Studio to create and edit images
- The Windows App Certification Kit (WACK) to test your apps

Use this collection of tools to create, code, debug, package, and publish your Windows 8 modern apps.

Get your tools at DreamSpark:
<http://aka.ms/w8gsg01>

DON'T FORGET YOUR LICENSE

When you install Visual Studio 2012 Express for Windows 8, you will be asked to get a developer license. To complete this step, you will need a [Microsoft Account](http://aka.ms/w8gsg02) (<http://aka.ms/w8gsg02>).

Note: In order to install the developer license, the user must be a Local Administrator on the computer.



WHAT IS A WINDOWS 8 APP?

They're fast, fluid and perfect for touch. Windows apps are at the center of everything you do. Uniquely, they appear as a 'tile' on the Windows Start screen.

Tap to open a Windows app and the content fills the entire computer screen. Content is the focus, while UI controls and distractions are minimized.

Learn more

Read the ["What's a Windows 8 Style app"](#) to see and understand all the cool design elements and User Experience (UX).

<http://aka.ms/w8gsg03>



build and test your app



VIDEOS

GET INSPIRED

Watch a short video on the design principles for Windows 8 apps.

CHOOSE A PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE

To build a Windows 8 app, you can use a language you already know:

- HTML/Javascript
- XAML/C#
- XAML/Visual Basic
- C++/CX

GET HANDS-ON HELP

We have a lab to help you create your first Windows 8 app.

Try the Lab Exercises from Chapter 1, and feel success right from the start.

The lab is available in HTML/JavaScript or XAML/C#. Pick the one with which you feel most proficient.

Download the Lab. Note:
Approximately 170MB

<http://aka.ms/w8gsg05>

FIND HUNDREDS OF CODE SAMPLES

Check out this [helpful overview](http://aka.ms/w8gsg06) (<http://aka.ms/w8gsg06>) from the Windows Dev Center. It covers everything from:

- Setting up
- Learning tools and templates
- Downloading hundreds of code samples:
<http://aka.ms/w8gsg07>



TESTING IS A SNAP

Before submitting your app, you must test it. You will find the Windows App Cert Kit (WACK) in the Visual Studio 2012 Express software you downloaded at the very start. You can run the test from the Windows Start screen.

Here's how:

- Get to your Windows 8 Start screen
- Run the 'Windows App Cert Kit' app
- Choose 'Validate a Windows Store app'
- Select your custom app and select "next"



VS Express for
Windows 8



Blend for Visual
Studio 2012

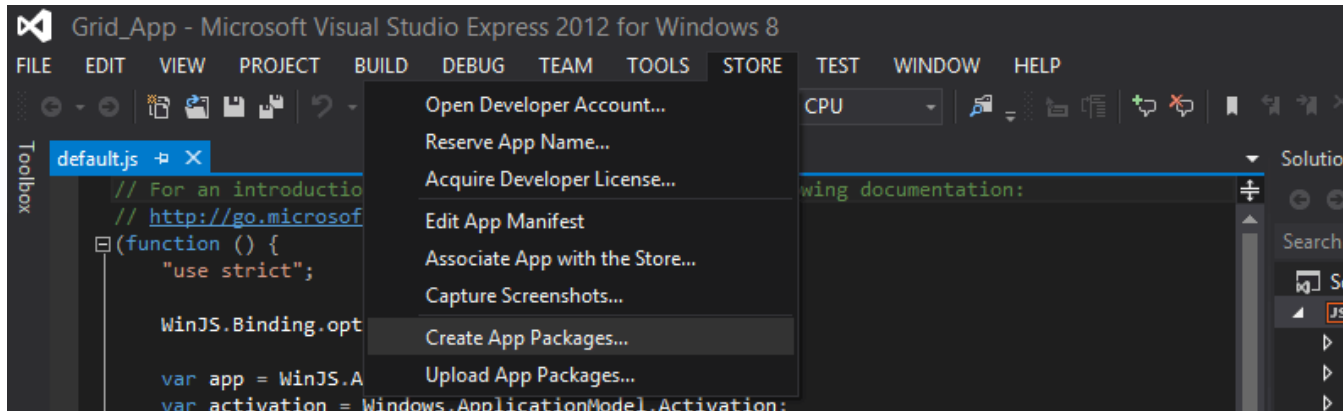


Windows App
Cert Kit



Grid_App

publish your app to the store



GET YOUR REGISTRATION CODE

Here's how:

- Go to <http://aka.ms/w8gsg08>
- Follow the prompts to enroll. You can verify as a student using your school-issued email, DreamSpark registration code, or International student ID card.
- Once enrolled, get the Windows Store registration code. It's free for verified students.
- Enroll in the [Windows Store](#).
- Instead of payment, simply enter the Registration Code you got from DreamSpark.

Note: a credit card is required for registration, but will not be charged if you have a registration code.

SUBMIT YOUR APP

To create and submit your app package to the store, follow the directions after you select "Create App Packages ..." from the Store Menu in Visual Studio 2012 Express for Windows 8. You will be required to register your Microsoft Account to submit apps to the Windows Store.

Note: If you are running a different version of Visual Studio 2012 (Professional, Premium or Ultimate), open the Project menu, and then choose Store. The Store menu appears only if you're working on a Microsoft design style project or solution.

When you submit your app to the store, be ready with:

- A name for your app
- A price for your app (or free)
- An age rating
- A selling description, compelling screen images and a feature list for shoppers to read in the Store

YOUR APP IS CERTIFIED

As you proceed through the app certification process, you will receive emails to keep you aware of your app's progress.

Learn more in the sidebar to the right.



ALLOW TIME FOR CERTIFICATION

Your app must meet high standards of quality to earn its way into the Windows Store. But once it's in, millions worldwide will see your app. That said, the certification process can take a number of days.

The process includes:

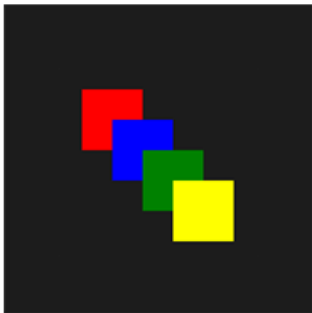
- Pre-processing
- Security tests
- Technical compliance
- Content compliance
- Release of your app
- Signing and publishing

You might be asked to revisit some aspect of your code to improve its quality and performance. It's part of the learning process.



build apps that build your career

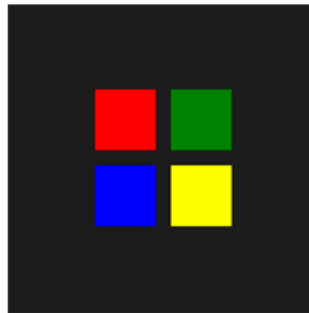
Canvas



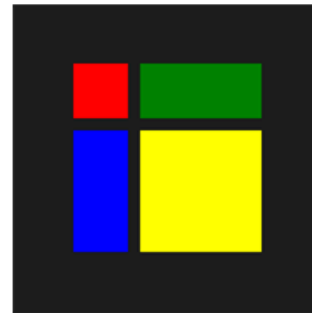
StackPanel



Grid



VariableSizedWrapGrid



FIRST IN, FIRST WIN

Windows 8 represents a huge worldwide opportunity. Think about it. More than 450 million people currently use Windows 7, and will be given a simple, affordable way to move up to Windows 8. And, with the Windows Store built into every Windows 8 device, your apps will be available to every user. You can tap into a PC audience eagerly looking to open the apps you have published to the Windows Store.

IMAGINE, BUILD, REVOLUTIONIZE

Students are always the ones to transform music, fashion, and pop culture. Now, you can reimagine apps and all they can do. You're not behind. You're creating what's next.

GAIN PROFESSIONAL SKILLS RIGHT NOW

Windows 8 is so new you can learn the same skills at the same time as professional developers who create apps for a living. The best jobs are given to technology students with the best skills. You can be certain Windows 8 development will be in great demand.

LET US MAKE IT EASIER

We can guide you to Windows 8 app templates and samples to help you code your first app faster and easier. You'll find hundreds of Windows SDK samples, and instructions on how to incorporate them.

Among the examples are UX best practices for Windows 8 apps, giving you a jump on making an app that darts, dances and delights.

<http://aka.ms/w8gsg07>



TEMPLATES AND TRAINING

You can download hundreds of Windows code samples, watch instructive videos, and much more.

<http://aka.ms/w8gsg07>

The Windows 8 development skills you gain will give you an edge when you graduate and venture into the real world.

App samples include:

- User Interface - <http://aka.ms/w8gsg10>
- Audio & Video - <http://aka.ms/w8gsg11>
- Devices & Sensors - <http://aka.ms/w8gsg12>
- Networking - <http://aka.ms/w8gsg13>
- Controls - <http://aka.ms/w8gsg14>



helpful resources for students



STARTING

Step 1

Get Windows 8 and free developer tools - <http://aka.ms/w8gsg01>

More resources:

Where to get your developer's license - <http://aka.ms/w8gsg15>

Watch this video on creating great Windows 8 Apps - <http://aka.ms/w8gsg04>

BUILDING AND TESTING

Step 2

Get a helpful overview about Windows 8 app development - <http://aka.ms/w8gsg06>

See how to test your Windows 8 app - <http://aka.ms/w8gsg16>

More resources:

What's a Windows 8 Style app? <http://aka.ms/w8gsg03>

Design principles of Windows 8 apps (video) - <http://aka.ms/w8gsg04>

Windows 8 hands-on lab building a cookbook app - <http://aka.ms/w8gsg05>

Game building for Windows 8 apps - <http://aka.ms/w8gsg17>

PUBLISHING

Step 3

Get Registration code for Windows Store. The code is free for students. <http://aka.ms/w8gsg08>

LEARNING

Microsoft blogs direct from the engineers responsible for Windows 8 -

Building Windows 8 - <http://aka.ms/w8gsg18>

Windows Store - <http://aka.ms/w8gsg19>

Windows 8 App Dev - <http://aka.ms/w8gsg20>

User Experience support and guidance - <http://aka.ms/w8gsg21>

eBook on building Windows 8 Apps - <http://aka.ms/w8gsg27>

UNIVERSITY LEVEL COURSES ON WINDOWS 8

Designing for Modern UI - <http://aka.ms/w8gsg22>

App Development for Modern UI - <http://aka.ms/w8gsg23>

App Development for Modern Devices - <http://aka.ms/w8gsg24>



RESOURCES

LEAD THE WAY

Don't wait for a class on app building. Windows 8 comes with incredible support to help you build your first app fast. Get started now.

WINDOWS AZURE - THE PERFECT COMPANION TO YOUR WINDOWS 8 OR WINDOWS PHONE APP

Windows Azure is Microsoft's open and flexible cloud platform that lets you deploy and manage your apps across a network of reliable global datacenters. What's more, Azure lets you build an application using any operating system, developer language or tool.

Also Windows Azure introduced Mobile Services, a set of turnkey backend solutions to power your mobile app. Accelerate your mobile app development, incorporate structured storage, user authentication and push notifications in minutes.

Learn more about Windows Azure Mobile. <http://aka.ms/w8gsg26>