Visual Studio Subscriptions (a.k.a. "MSDN"): Getting Started

What is Visual Studio Subscriptions?

Visual Studio Subscriptions (formerly Microsoft Developer Network, or "MSDN") is a one-stop-shop for downloads, training, community content and information about what's new. Visual Studio Subscriptions provide the most comprehensive set of resources for you to create, deploy and manage applications on your preferred platforms and devices, including Windows, iOS, Android and Linux.

What is Visual Studio?

Visual Studio is an integrated development environment (IDE) created by Microsoft to give you a compelling environment for the Windows, MAC, Linux and .NET platforms for building web applications and Web Services, as well as desktop and mobile applications using ASP.NET, Node.js, Python, JavaScript and Typescript. It integrates with Azure DevOps Server (formerly Team Foundation Server), which provides full end-to-end application lifecycle management. The newer versions of Visual Studio let you collaborate efficiently by directly managing your team projects hosted by any provider, including Azure DevOps Server or GitHub. Visual Studio understands web frameworks like Angular, jQuery, Express and others. ASP.NET Core and .NET Core run on Windows, Mac and Linux operating systems.

Getting Started

Before you can use Visual Studio Subscriptions, you need Visual Studio. Before you can get Visual Studio, you must get elevated privileges, decide which edition of Visual Studio you need, request access to the Visual Studio Subscriptions account (may still be referred to as "MSDN" throughout our intranet), set up your Visual Studio Subscriptions license, activate your subscription and, finally, use your elevated rights to run Visual Studio.

Let's Go!

Click the "Next" button below for instructions on how to complete the first step.

Step One: Get Elevated Privileges

You'll need elevated privileges to get started with Visual Studio Subscriptions.

What are elevated privileges?

To enhance security across the company, Local Workstation Administrative Rights (LWAR) is not an approved solution. Therefore, required users are being provided with elevated permissions throughout the organization.

Why do I need elevated privileges?

AppSense Application Manager (ASAM) solves common functions that require administrative privileges.

- If you're a developer, request access to Global Group "ASAM_Developer_Elevation."
- If you're not a developer, request access to Global Group "ASAM_VisualStudio_Elevation" for installing Visual Studio Community.

How to get elevated privileges:

- Request access through Secure by requesting membership in the global group "ASAM_Developer_Elevation" or "ASAM_VisualStudio_Elevation" (for Visual Studio community) or "ASAM_SQL_Elevation" (for SQL Server DE).
- In the comments area of your Secure request, briefly explain why you need elevated privileges.
- Be very specific about your technical requirements in your description when you submit your request.
- **Tip**: If you need more detailed instructions on how to submit a Secure request, refer to "How to request access to an existing global group."

How to use elevated privileges:

- After the global group is approved, click here for instructions on how to run an application with elevated permissions.
- To install the user-installed version of Visual Studio, right-click on the Web Installer *.exe file and select "Run with Administrative Rights (Audited)." Then enter text as requested.
- For SQL Server DE, extract .exe from ISO file and double click the *.exe file to start the installation.

    Once the AppSense team receives your request, it will take about a day for them to review and approve it.

Great work!

Step Two: Choose Your Visual Studio Edition

You must have Visual Studio installed on your workstation in order to use Visual Studio Subscriptions. There are two versions of Visual Studio: Enterprise and Professional.

1. Compare the features of Enterprise vs. Professional on the [Visual Studio page](#) of Optum Developer.
2. Once you've determined which version of Visual Studio you need, return to this page.

Great work!

Step Three: Request Access to the Visual Studio Subscriptions Account

To access Visual Studio Subscriptions, you will need to request access to it.

1. Go to the [AppStore](#) and search for Visual Studio Subscriptions using its former, more commonly known name: "MSDN."
2. Scroll through to find the edition (i.e., Enterprise vs. Professional) and version (i.e., 2019 vs. 2017) of Visual Studio you intend to use. Click on the hyperlinked name.
3. At the bottom of the page, click "Request Approval."
4. In the "Business Justification" section, state all of the following information:
   - Your Employee ID.
   - Restate the title, version, and edition of the subscription you need.
     - Visual Studio Enterprise 2019 with MSDN or Visual Studio Professional 2019 with MSDN are recommended.
     - If your Visual Studio Subscriptions ("MSDN") request is being submitted to solve for licensing of an application that is no longer available as a stand-alone license and can only be procured as part of MSDN (example: SQL Server Developer 2012 or earlier, Visual SourceSafe), select Visual Studio Professional 2019 w/MSDN.
     - For more information on subscription levels and their related costs, refer to the [Visual Studio page](#).
5. Enter your business justification.
   - If you're requesting an Enterprise edition, you must identify **the specific capabilities** provided by Enterprise that you intend to use to justify the significant cost difference between Professional and Enterprise versions. (For more information, review the [Capabilities of Visual Studio Enterprise](#).)
6. In the "Recipient" section, follow the instructions to ensure the license is issued both to the correct person, and for the right computer on which you'd like the software installed.
7. In the "Restricted Application" section, fill out the [Restricted Application Form](#) to submit a new restricted application request.
   - If you already have exception approval, search for and link to it.
8. Be sure your manager knows to expect a request for this application. Your manager will need to approve the exception request before access to the application will be provided.

Once your request for access to the Visual Studio Subscriptions ("MSDN") account has been approved, you'll receive an email message informing you that your request has been complete, giving you sufficient rights to run the software on your device.

Note: Visual Studio Subscriptions (a.k.a. "MSDN") are User-Installed Software's and they need to be installed by the users and cannot be installed via Appstore.

Step Four: Set Up Your Visual Studio Subscriptions License

Before you can run any software from Visual Studio Subscriptions on your device, you must set up your Visual Studio Subscriptions license.

1. After your request has been approved, go to MSDN Subscriptionopens in a new window. for license procurement.
2. To complete the form referencing the approved DRM Exception Request, attach the approval using the "Attach File" option in the form.
o Alternatively, you can enter the DRM Software Exception approval by linking it in the "Software Exception Link" field.
3. If you're part of an M&A (also known as an acquired entity, or managed business), please attach an Ariba order.

Great work!

Step Five: Activate Your Subscription

Once you've set up your Visual Studio Subscriptions license, you must activate your subscription. To do this, follow the steps below.

1. Once your company's Microsoft Volume Licensing Site (MVLS) subscriber assigns you Visual Studio Subscriptions (formerly MSDN), you'll receive an email directly from Microsoft with information and a link to activate your subscription. (If you didn't receive the email, please look for it in your spam folder.)
2. The subscription-activation process navigates to the Visual Studio website. At the site, enter the email address that was assigned to the new subscription. (The email address is identified in your welcome email message.) * Microsoft One account is necessary for accessing msdn portal.
3. Click "Continue," and you'll be redirected to a "Decision" page.
4. Select "Work or school account" *UNLESS* the subscription is associated with a work or school account that's also associated with an Azure Active Directory (AAD) tenant. If that's the case, please do not select this option.
5. Select "Personal" if the subscription is associated with a corporate email address, but has also been converted to a "Personal" Microsoft Account (MSA). Many users who've been using Visual Studio Subscriptions (formerly MSDN) for some time tend to have "Personal" subscriptions.
o **Tip**: If one pathway fails, try the other. Subscription administrators may have changed.
6. Enter your password and click, "Sign in." At this point, the "Benefits" page should display.

Great work!

Step Six: Use Elevated Rights to Run Visual Studio

Once your Visual Studio Subscriptions account is activated, you must download the approved Visual Studio media and install it on your device. To do this, follow the instructions below.

1. Log in to your Visual Studio Subscriptions account.
2. Click on the Subscriber Downloads tab at the top of the page.
3. Locate the version of Visual Studio you want to use, then click on it. It will start to download to your local drive.
4. On your local drive, choose a folder where you want to download this media. Once the media download is complete, unzip it. In the process, a folder will be created.
5. Go into the newly created folder and locate the Visual Studio version you've just downloaded.

What to Expect Next

Once Visual Studio is installed on your device, you've acquired all the necessary tools and the environment you need to start writing code in a world-class editing environment. All you need to do now is open up your Visual Studio integrated development environment (IDE) and start coding.

Congrats!

You've reached the end of these instructions for Getting Started with Visual Studio Subscriptions. Click the "Next" button below to learn more about what you can do with it.