

Downloading Visual Studio for Windows

Most of this handout was written by past TAs, although the precise authorship has been lost.

In CS106B, you have the option of writing your programs on the Mac or PC. For the Windows environment on a PC, you will write your programs using Microsoft's Visual Studio application. You can use Visual Studio on the computers in the public clusters on campus, or you can download a copy for your own machine, as described in the following section. If you're planning to work on one of the public-cluster computers, you should be able to skip this handout and go directly to the assignment.

If you want to download your own copy of Visual Studio, you need to execute a somewhat complicated procedure that involves downloading a disk image of the installer CD, burning it to a physical CD, and then using that CD to install the program. Don't worry—we'll walk you through the process below. It may be a fair number of steps, but just pay careful attention at each step, and you'll get through it fine.

1. To get started, you'll need to get an ELMS account to be able to get access to Visual Studio 2008. Go to the website <http://msdn.stanford.edu/>. (Ignore any notice that says that this page is for faculty, staff, and graduate students. We have arranged to include undergraduate students in computer science courses as part of the software agreement.) Accept the End User License Agreement (EULA). If you are unable to access the website (for example if you are not on campus), send an e-mail to Pat Burke (pburke@ee) and he will create the necessary account for you.
2. Fill out the form that appears on the next page, indicating that the software you want is "Visual Studio 2008 Professional Edition (x86 and x64 WoW) - DVD". **Make sure to include your student ID and your Stanford e-mail address in the e-mail.**
3. At some point after submitting the form, you will receive an e-mail message that (1) says that you have been registered for ELMS, (2) directs you to a website to obtain the software, and (3) gives you a user id and a password to login. If you e-mailed Pat to get an ELMS account set up, please allow some time for this e-mail to arrive, since he must manually register you.
4. Using a web browser, go to the website designated in the e-mail and log in using the user id and password.
5. Click on the "Software" button in the upper-left region of the page. Type "Visual Studio 2008" in the search box on the resulting page and press Enter. In the list, select "Visual Studio 2008 Professional Edition (x86 and x64 WoW) - DVD".
6. Click the "Add to Cart" button. Once again, agree to the EULA.
7. Click the "Checkout" button. Then on the resulting page, enter your name and email address, and then click "Next".
8. Click the "Download" button on the next page that appears and then again on the following one to confirm. This process will create a file in your download area named something like `Downloader_for_visual_studio_2008_----.exe`.
9. Double-click on that file to begin the download. You will probably have to give your system permission to do so a couple of times. The downloader will then start pulling over the 3.4GB of data required for the installation, which will take some time, particularly if you're using a wireless connection.

10. Once the download is complete, you will see a screen containing a button marked “Launch Install”. Clicking this button will bring up a directory window with a file named something like **en_visual_studio_2008_----.iso**.
11. This file is a type of download called an ISO file. The traditional approach for working with an ISO file is to burn the image to a CD or DVD, and the instructions on this handout describe that approach. Ilya Sherman has, however, written up a set of instructions that allow you to bypass that step by using [virtual drives](#).
12. If you want to follow the traditional CD approach, you will need to have a *blank* CD and a CD/DVD drive that can write CDs. You can purchase blank CDs at the Stanford bookstore. Chances are your computer already has such software (most versions of Windows Vista have such software built in, but Windows XP often does not). If you are not sure, double click on the ISO file. If a program opens to burn it to a CD, follow the steps in the program to write the file to CD.
13. If your computer does not bring up a program for writing the ISO file to a CD, you can obtain a program called [ISO Recorder](#) to write ISO files. Steps 12 a–e below describe how to obtain, install and use ISO Recorder, if you need it. If you already have software to write CDs on your computer, you can skip to Step 14 below.
 - a) Download and install the version of ISO Recorder appropriate for your version of Windows (you will most likely want to download the 32-bit version of the software on whichever version of Windows, XP or Vista, that you are using).
 - b) Insert a blank CD into the CD writing drive on your computer.
 - c) Locate the ISO file corresponding to Visual Studio (the file from step 10 named **en_visual_studio_2008_professional_x86_dvd_x14-26326.iso**) and right click on it. Select “copy image to cd.”
 - d) Make sure the drive name is correct under “Recorder” and click “Next.”
 - e) Wait for the process to finish and remove the disc.
14. If needed, you can also find a [visual step-by-step tutorial](#) on how to use the ISO Recorder software to write CDs on the product’s website.
15. Once you have the disk image written to CDs, you should then insert the Visual Studio CD in your computer (and open the disc if it does not do so automatically in about 20 seconds). You should see a dialog box come up with several options. Click on the first one, “Install Visual Studio 2008”. Follow the resulting prompts, and wait for the installation to complete (it may take awhile). Congratulations! You now have Visual Studio installed on your computer.
16. Finally, you should download and install [Visual Studio 2008 Service Pack 1](#).

If you have any problems, please let the course staff know.