

DeepSoft, Inc. Engineering – Programming – Training

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Using Microsoft Visual C++ 6.0

This latest version of Visual C++ forces us to work with a project rather than a simple, stand alone C or CPP source file. This is the way that you would prefer to work for a real project but it does add undesirable complexity at this stage of the students C and/or C++ knowledge. Working with a single C or CPP source file is very desirable from a training perspective as it allows the student to focus on the language and task at hand and not operating system specific complexities. This is a very powerful tool that has been optimized to do Microsoft Window's programming, not C or C++ training.

You must specify a drive and path to store your files and a project name. The project name will be used by Visual C++ to automatically create a subdirectory of that same name. All of your project files (just a single .c or .cpp file for our needs) will be in this subdirectory plus other files that are automatically generated by Visual C++. You can have as many c, cpp, or h files as required for your project but they may contain only a single instance of the function called main().

For all of the C and C++ courses we will be creating a *Win32 Console Application* which is a DOS box, NOT a Win32 Application which is a true Windows application and requires much more code than we are presently prepared to write. All of the C and C++ course exercises are console types of applications that will run under DOS, UNIX, any other type of command line driven operating system, or under Windows as a DOS box. It is necessary to learn to work with these types of applications first before going on to much more complex GUI applications such as Microsoft Windows. First, there are still ample applications for command line applications, particularly on UNIX and mainframe systems. Second GUI programming adds a considerable amount of complexity and it just isn't realistic to start at that level. To do GUI programming requires a good skill level in C++ that implies at least a solid working knowledge of C.

The character '[' is used to separate menu choices.

Run Visual C++ from Windows 95 or NT 4.0.

- Pick Start
- Pick Programs
- Pick Visual C++
- Pick Visual C++ from the child menu

Create a project

Pick File | New
Select Win32 Console Application
Specify a drive and path by picking the button to the right of “Location”
Give the project a name
Pick OK
Select “create an empty project”
All of your code will go into a subdirectory with the project name

Create an empty C or CPP source file

Pick File | New
Pick C++ Source File (even if it's a C program)
Give it a name (add .c for C files, .cpp is the default)
Click on the “Add to Project” check box
Pick OK

If you forgot to check “Add to Project”, or want to add a previous source file
Pick Insert | File as text
Select the file

Once in a project, File | New will always attempt to add another source file (C, CPP, or h) which is fine for real projects but unnecessary for our problems which will all be done in a single C or CPP source file.

Write, Edit, & Build Code

Now add your code to the C or CPP file.
Save it with File | Save
Build the project with Build | Build filename.exe
Or
Rebuild the project with Build | Rebuild All
Or
Compile only with Build | Compile filename.c

Run with Build | Execute

There are also icon buttons in the upper right corner of the menu bar to do these things.

To do the Next Problem

Go back to the top and start a new project
You may want to copy source code from a previous project or, if several problems are related simply add all the code to one source file in a project.

To open a previous project

File | Open Workspace

To open just a file (you normally want to open a project which is a workspace)

File | Open

To open recent files or workspaces

File | Recent Files

File | Recent Workspaces

After you run your application, you must close its window to be able to do any additional development. The linker cannot overwrite a running program.

To copy all of your .c or .cpp files from the network drive to your floppy disk

Open Windows Explorer and look at your floppy (leave Explorer open)

Start | Programs | Windows Explorer

Use the File Find capability to actually find all of the files

Start | Find | Files or Folders

Set Named = *.c or *.cpp

Pick Browse and go to: N:\Cclass\section number\your name

Pick include subfolders

Pick find

Once found select all with Edit | Select All

Copy with Edit | Copy

Go back to Windows Explorer and paste to floppy with Edit | Paste