



**VISUAL STUDIO AND MSDN
FREQUENTLY ASKED
QUESTIONS**



MSDN is a subscription for software developers, testers, architects, IT professional and database engineers who are building apps on Windows, SQL Server or other Microsoft platforms. It provides access to new and old versions of Microsoft products, software, services and support, including developer tools, operating systems, server software, and productivity applications.

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Develop and deploy applications to the Windows Azure platform, an internet-scale cloud computing and services platform hosted in Microsoft data centers.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I buy a subscription?

You can get an MSDN subscription when you buy Visual Studio 2010 directly from the Microsoft website or through a software reseller.

Which subscription is right for me?

Six MSDN subscription options are available, with software and other benefits varying by subscription level:

Visual Studio® Ultimate development system with MSDN: for developers in teams requiring access to the fullest set of Microsoft products.

Visual Studio Premium with MSDN: for developers requiring access to the fullest set of Microsoft products.

Visual Studio Professional with MSDN: for developers building applications on the Windows® operating system, Windows Server®, and Microsoft SQL Server® database software.

Visual Studio Test Professional with MSDN: for testers in need of a tool for test planning and manual test execution.

MSDN Embedded: for embedded developers building specialized devices on the Windows Embedded operating system.

MSDN Operating Systems: for software testers or IT professionals who just need to set up test labs with Windows and Windows Server.



Microsoft®
Visual Studio® 2010

Microsoft Visual Studio 2010 Professional is the essential tool for individuals performing basic development tasks. It simplifies the creation, debugging and deployment of applications on a variety of platforms including SharePoint and the Cloud. Visual Studio 2010 Professional comes with integrated support for test-driven development, as well as debugging tools that help ensure high-quality solutions.

WHAT'S NEW AND IMPROVED

Be creative with rich user experiences for Microsoft Windows, Microsoft Office, and the Web.

- Designers and developers benefit from powerful design surfaces and a seamless workflow that enable the creation of compelling rich user experiences for Microsoft Windows®, the 2010 Microsoft Office system, and Web-based applications.
- Visual Studio 2010 has built-in tools for Windows 7 operating system development, including multitouch and "ribbon" user interface (UI) components.
- The new Visual Studio 2010 drag-and-drop data binding to Windows Presentation Foundation (WPF) and interactive Microsoft Silverlight® applications makes building Windows and rich Internet applications easier and faster than ever.

Spend your time thinking about creative solutions rather than interpreting the code.

- The rich visualization power of WPF in the new Visual Studio 2010 editor makes it possible to overlay powerful adornments on top of existing code.
- Create a dependency diagram using Visual Studio 2010 Ultimate to decide where to make changes.
- The new Quick Search feature enables fast context switching between different files. Type the first few letters of any method, property, or class, and Visual Studio 2010 will quickly produce the most relevant results.

Simplicity through integration.

- Visual Studio 2010 is an integrated environment in which developers can use existing skills to model, code, debug, test, and deploy a growing number of application types. Visual Studio 2010 helps to simplify common tasks and helps developers explore the depth of the platform.

A single, integrated environment makes it easy for the whole team to collaborate.

- No matter which development task (modeling, coding, testing, or debugging), do it all without leaving the Visual Studio 2010 environment.
- Integrated solutions lead to improved productivity, a simpler development, and collaboration across the team.
- MSDN® subscribers at the Ultimate, Premium, Professional, and Test Professional levels each get one server license for Microsoft Visual Studio Team System Team Foundation Server (TFS) plus one client access license (CAL). The team can use a centralized source code, work item, and bug-tracking repository to collaborate.

Make your development simple by using your existing skills.

- Visual Studio 2010 now provides first-class support for the Model-View-Controller (MVC) programming pattern. This widely used technique to separate and partition components of the application leads to more.
- Functional programming languages offer a great deal of flexibility. Visual Studio 2010 features F#, a new, fully supported Microsoft .NET language that is familiar and intuitive to developers with a background in dynamic language-based programming.

Quality code ensured. Visual Studio 2010 provides powerful tools for managing a project, maintaining source code, and finding bugs.

- Prevent costly and time-consuming build-breaks and architectural validations using Gated Check-in.
- The new and powerful Test Manager 2010 tool, tightly integrated with Microsoft Visual Studio Team System Team Foundation Server (TFS) 2010 lets you perform exploratory testing and create test cases directly from bugs, effectively strengthening the last line of defense for quality code.
- Automatically capture extensible and rich diagnostic information like IntelliTrace™ logs, indexed videos, and screenshots for each new bug.
- Developers can use manual and automated testing, and advanced debugging tools to help ensure that they are building the right application, the right way.

Spend less time debugging.

- The inline call hierarchy helps to quickly trace a program's execution flow without invoking the debugger. A single click identifies the calls in and out of a given method.
- Visual Studio 2010 provides a specialized debugger to help track the tasks and threads in applications optimized for upcoming improvements in underlying hardware capabilities.
- The new IntelliTrace feature makes the "no-repro" discussion a thing of the past. It records the application's execution history and guarantees that developers can always reproduce the reported bug. Step back coding history to see the exact application state at the point and time when the bug occurred.

Integrated support for test-first development.

- Visual Studio 2010 is equipped with integrated unit testing, which allows you to easily test portions of your code before you write the full application, and then allows you to automatically jump from the result to the location in your code.
- A new “Low Impact” mode for Microsoft IntelliSense® technology facilitates a “test-first” style of development while still providing the main benefits of IntelliSense.
- Visual Studio 2010 will generate all the stub code necessary for your unit tests to compile and run under the covers.

Support for cross-platform development teams.

- Microsoft Visual Studio Team Explorer Everywhere 2010 unites development teams across platforms. Team members can access Visual Studio TFS to collaborate and track progress from within the Eclipse IDE to develop Java and Microsoft .NET applications using any major operating system including Windows, Linux, and Mac OS X.

Become more effective and more efficient at testing.

- Visual Studio Test Professional 2010 is an integrated testing toolset that delivers a complete plan-test-track workflow to enable in-context collaboration between you and your developers, thereby greatly increasing visibility to the overall project.
- Easily capture data-driven test iterations on the first pass using Microsoft Test Runner. Use Fast Forward for Manual Testing to quickly navigate to the right places within the test cases to continue verification steps in subsequent passes.
- Testers can focus their energy on high-value tasks and spend less time on repetitive work. Automatically capture the full context for each new bug.
- With a built-in capability to collect Test Impact data, testers can access a list of recommended tests due to code changes and know which bugs are addressed in a given build.
- Use action recordings to generate Coded UI Tests. To accelerate regression testing, these automated tests can be run as part of a build.

Streamline with Virtual Lab Management.

- Integrated with Test Professional 2010 and Visual Studio TFS 2010, Lab Management 2010 helps to significantly reduce the cost of setting up, configuring, provisioning, and maintaining complex multimachine test environments. Easily and rapidly provision virtual environments at a known clean state. Enable more test cycles per machine while ensuring predictable build-deploy-test workflows.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What's better in Visual Studio 2010?

Visual Studio 2010 brings an enhanced UI, simplified parallel programming capabilities, democratized ALM, improved Web development capabilities, increased support to make developers more productive, cloud development functionality, and support for more databases.

What's new in MSDN subscriptions?

In 2009, MSDN subscriptions added a number of benefits for subscribers: Windows Azure platform usage, Microsoft E-Learning, special offers from Microsoft and Microsoft Partners, and priority support in MSDN Forums.

Where and how do I license Visual Studio 2010 with MSDN?

Visual Studio 2010 with MSDN licenses can be purchased retail (on the MSDN Web site) or as part of a Volume Licensing agreement through Microsoft partners.

What is WPF? Is it different from Windows Forms?

WPF stands for Windows Presentation Foundation. It is part of the .NET Framework that shipped in the Windows Vista® operating system and is now in the .NET Framework 3.5. It integrates with Windows Forms but is different because it helps designers and developers collaborate by using a common description of the UI elements. It also has flow controls and is more graphics friendly.

Can you use Visual Studio 2010 with the .NET Framework 2.0, 3.0, and 3.5?

In Visual Studio 2010, you will be able to open and continue working on projects that target .NET Framework 2.0, 3.0, 3.5. Visual Studio 2010 will scope the development experience to the target framework, so that you will only have access to capabilities in the given framework. You can upgrade any of these projects to Framework 4.0 to get access to all the latest functionality in the .NET Framework.

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