

Getting Started with Microsoft Visual C++:

1. Creating a new project

Steps:

- 1) Start Visual C++ from the Start menu
- 2) Select “New” from the “File” menu.
- 3) Click the Projects tab.
- 4) Click on “Win 32 console application”
- 5) Type <filename> into the project name box (no extension).
- 6) Set the location box to Z:\... (the place you want to save your project to)
- 7) Click OK.
- 8) Select “An empty project.”
- 9) Click Finish.
- 10) Click OK.
- 11) Select the “File” menu and the “New” option.
- 12) Click the Files tab.
- 13) Click on “C++ Source File.”
- 14) Check the “add to current project” box.
- 15) Type the same <filename> as you gave to the project into the file name box.

NOTE: If you make a mistake before you try again you must use explorer to find and delete the already created project. If you try to create a project that already exists you will get an error message.

2. Compiling, Building, and Executing

Steps:

- 1) Type in the “A Simple Program” example from class.
- 2) Select “Compile <filename.cpp>” from the Build menu.
If it worked correctly at the bottom of the window you should see the following:

```
Compiling...
test.cpp
```

```
test.obj - 0 error(s), 0 warning(s)
```

- 3) Next choose “Build <filename.exe>” from the Build menu.
If it worked correctly at the bottom of the window you should see the following:

```
Linking...
```

```
test3.exe - 0 error(s), 0 warning(s)
```

- 4) Now choose “Execute <filename.exe>” from the Build menu or click on the exclamation point button in the toolbar.
If it worked a command window should pop up and inside it should say:

```
    Hello World.
    Press any key to continue.
```

- 5) Congratulations! You successfully wrote, compiled, and executed your first C++ program. You can press any key. You can execute the same program again and again by repeating step 4).

NOTE: If you ran into problems around step 2 or 3 check your code. Make sure you didn't type something incorrectly. If it still doesn't work try starting over from scratch with a new project. I.e. follow the note at the end of “Creating a new project.” If you created the project incorrectly that might be the problem.

3. Basic Debugging

Steps:

- 1) Remove the semicolon from the end of “cout << “Hello World” << endl;”
- 2) Click on the save icon in the toolbar.
- 3) Compile the code as in step 2) above.

NOTE: You can pull the white window which displays compiling information up with the mouse to see more of it.

If you have the entire output displayed you should see something like this:

```
-----Configuration: test3 - Win32 Debug-----  
Compiling...  
test.cpp  
Z:\ComputerClass\test\test.cpp(8) : error C2143: syntax error : missing ';' before  
'return'  
Error executing cl.exe.
```

```
test.obj - 1 error(s), 0 warning(s)
```

When you forget a semi-colon in C++ its called a parse error and it will look like this. This is just one of hundreds of error messages you might see from the compiler. Notice that the last line tells you how many errors your program contains. Also notice that in the example above the error occurs at line 8. You can tell what line your cursor is on by looking at the bottom right-hand corner of the Visual C++ window.

- 4) Fix your error and try to recompile.
- 5) Don't be afraid to explore abit more.