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Session One: Getting Started with Visual Studio

Man is a tool-using animal. Without tools he is nothing, with tools he is all.

Thomas Carlyle, Scottish Writer (1795-1881)

All of the tools you need to work with ASP.NET are now available as a **free** download from Microsoft under the name Visual Studio Express. Visual Studio Express lacks some of the advanced features of the professional Visual Studio versions, but its interface is nearly identical.

Instructions for downloading and installing Visual Studio are included at the start of this session.

Visual Studio is a complex application with hundreds of features. In this session, you're going to create a very simple project and explore some of the basic functionality of Visual Studio.

Session Objectives

By the end of this session you will be able to:

- Install Visual Studio
- Check your Visual Studio and Windows version
- Set up the development environment and download the sample files
- Set up Windows for development
- Create an ASP.NET Web Application project
- Create an ASP.NET Web Site project
- Manage a project with the Solution Explorer
- Run a project in debug mode
- View .aspx pages in Source and Design views
- Use automatic formatting
- Expand and collapse code regions
- Change properties in Design view
- Change properties in Source view
- Add controls to a page with the Toolbox
- Use the QuickTasks menu
- Get help