


## MS Visual C++.NET Introduction

A1 Visual C++ .NET 1

### Quick Introduction

The following pages provide a quick tutorial on using Microsoft Visual C++.NET to produce a small project. There are substantial changes from version 6.0 of Visual Studio.



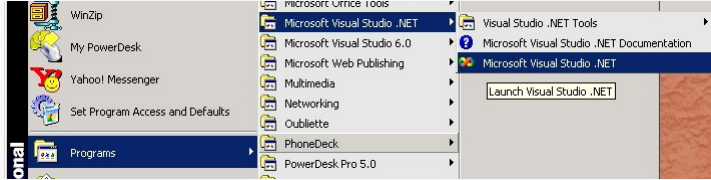
The following discussion is based on an actual session using the Visual C++.NET Developer's Studio. The menu selections and options illustrated here do not conform to earlier versions of Visual C++. Please note the disclaimer in the front of these notes regarding compiler selection.

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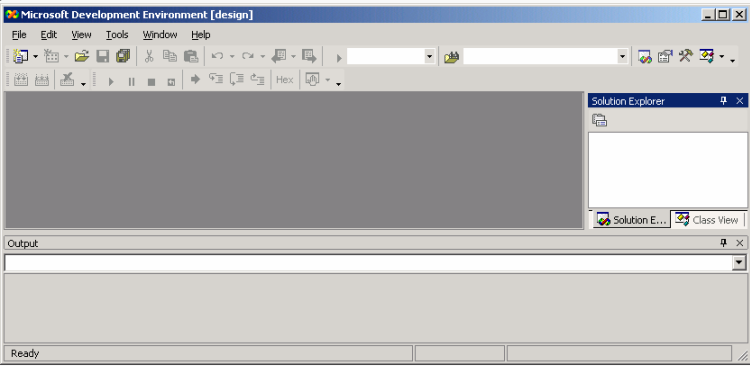
## Getting Started: MS Visual C++.NET

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Start Visual C++ .NET from the **Start** menu:



The main window will look something like:



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## Creating a New Project

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Before you can begin coding, you must create a new Project.  
To do so, go to the File menu and select New... and then Project:

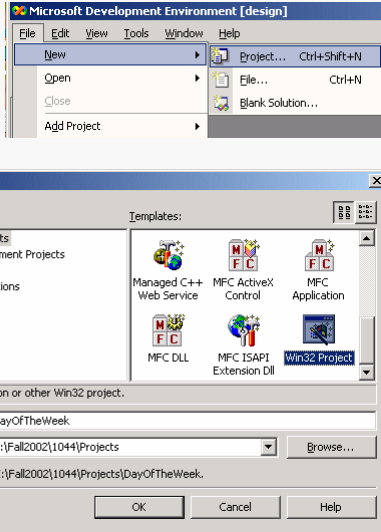
You should see a dialog box:

In the Template window, select Win32 Project.

In the Name field, type the name you want to give the project.

Here, we call it DayOfTheWeek.

Also pick the location you want for your project files.



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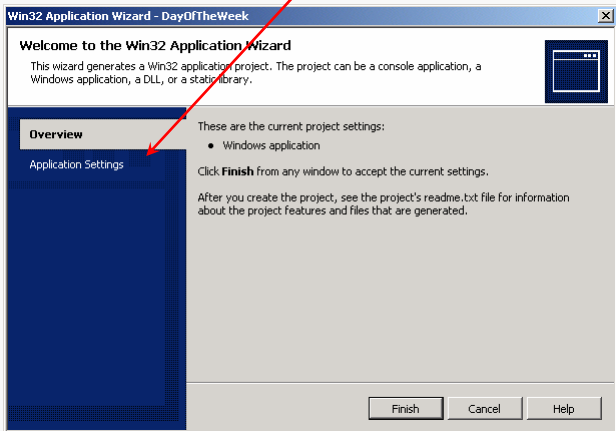
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## Win32 Application Wizard

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After clicking Ok from the New project dialog window you will be presented with the Win32 Application Wizard dialog window. Click on Application Settings.



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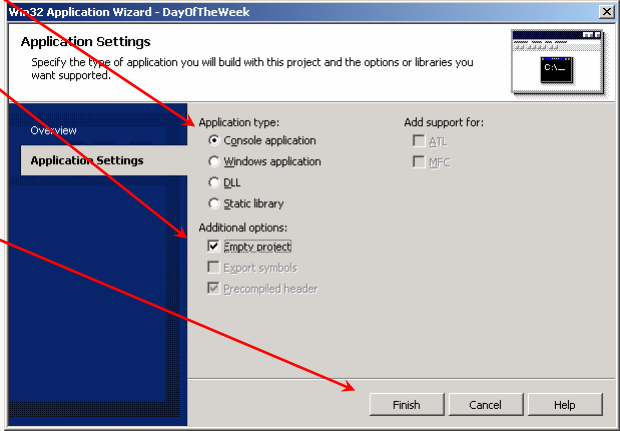
## Win32 Application Settings

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For all the assignments in CS 1044, you must select "Console application" and "Empty project":

Click "Finish".

If you get either of these settings wrong, you will not be able to complete your assignment.



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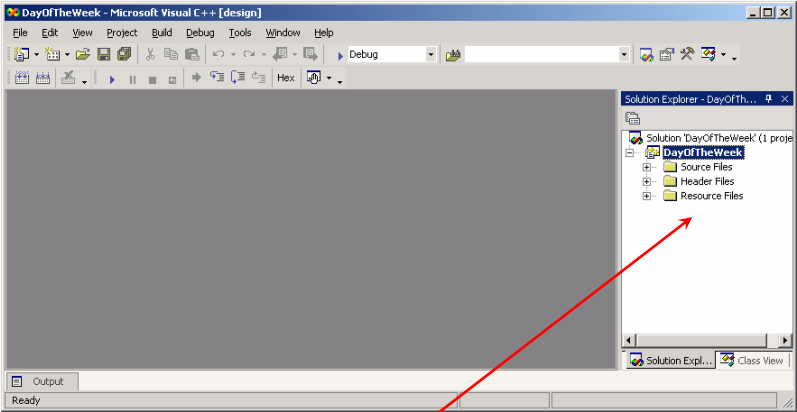
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## The Project Workspace

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You should now see the main Visual C++ .NET window shown below:



The window panel at the right is called the Solution Explorer. It's not of much use in CS 1044, but it shows a tree diagram that can display names of all the files in your project.

You can hide the panel by clicking its close button if you prefer not to see it.

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## Creating a Code File

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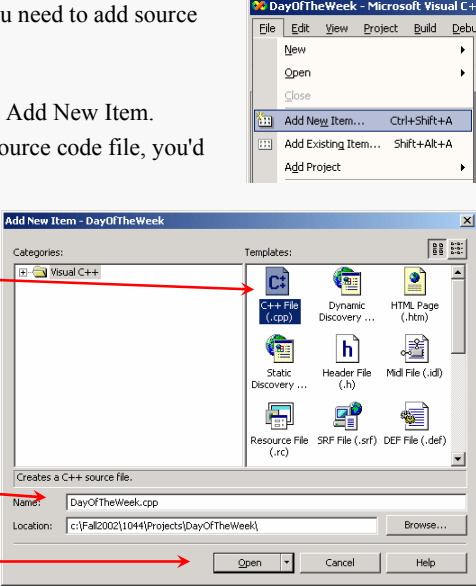
Now that you have created a Project, you need to add source code to it.

To do so, go to the File menu and select Add New Item.  
(If you had already typed in your C++ source code file, you'd select Add Existing Item.)

In the dialog box, select the Template C++ file:

And enter the name you want to give the file.

Click "Open".



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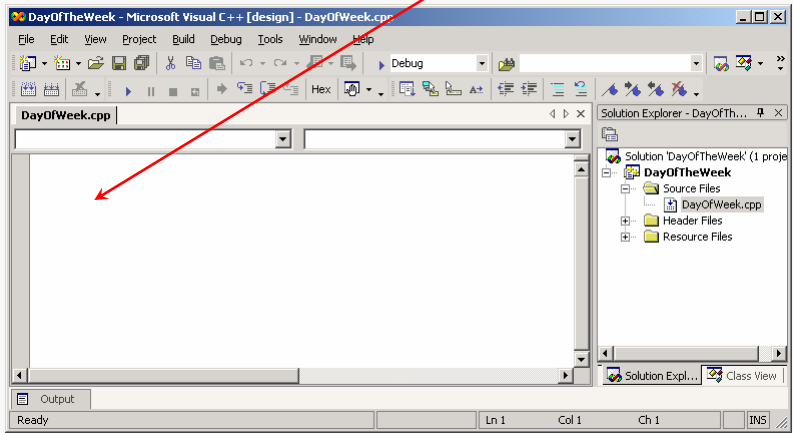
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## Creating a Code File (continued)

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The main Visual C++ .NET window now shows an empty edit box in which you will type the C++ language statements for your program:



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## C++ Code for DayOfTheWeek

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Now in the edit window that just appeared type in the following C++ source code (exactly as it is given):

```
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

int main() //Find the Day of the Week for a Date
{
    int    mon, day, year;

    cout << "Enter a date for which you wish to know" << endl;
    cout << "the day of the week (MM DD YYYY)? ";
    cin  << month >> day >> year;

    if (year < 1752)
        cout << "Only Gregorian dates accepted, sorry " << endl;
    else {

        if (month < 3) { //Jan & Feb = 13 & 14 preceding year
            month += 12;
            year  -= 1;
        } // end if
```

## C++ Code (continued)

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```
    weekDay = (day + 2*month + 3*(month+1)/5 + year +
        year/4 - year/100 + year/400 + 1) % 7;

    if (month > 12) { //reset Jan & Feb
        month -= 12;
        year  += 1 ;
    } // end if

    cout << month << "/" < day << "/" << year << " falls on ";
    switch (weekDay) {
        case 0: cout << "Sunday" << endl; break;
        case 1: cout << "Monday" << endl; break;
        case 2: cout << "Tuesday" << endl; break;
        case 3: cout << "Wednesday" << endl; break;
        case 4: cout << "Thursday" << endl; break;
        case 5: cout << "Friday" << endl; break;
        case 6: cout << "Saturday" << endl; break;
    } // end switch

} // end else

return 0;
} // end main
```

Be sure to save the file  
occasionally as you work.

## Code Editing Window A1 Visual C++ .NET 11

Now that you have entered all of your source code, you should have a window that looks like:

```

#include <iostream>
using namespace std;

int main() //Find the Day of the Week for a Date
{
    int  mon, day, year;

    cout << "Enter a date for which you wish to know" << endl;
    cout << "the day of the week (MM DD YYYY)? ";
    cin  << month >> day >> year;

    if (year < 1752)
        cout << "Only Gregorian dates accepted, sorry " << endl;
    else {

        if (month < 3) { //Jan & Feb = 13 & 14 preceding year
            month += 12;
            year  -= 1;
        } // end if

        weekDay = (day + 2*month + 3*(month+1)/5 + year +

```

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## Building an Executable A1 Visual C++ .NET 12

Before your program can be executed ("run"), the C++ language code you just typed in must be translated into a language the underlying computer hardware can understand.

This is easily done by using the Visual C++ .NET environment, via the toolbars or menus.

As discussed elsewhere in these notes, the translation process involves two main phases:

- **Compilation** checks your C++ language code for grammatical correctness and partially translates it into machine language.
- **Linking** checks the results of the compilation phase for other errors, and completes the translation, producing a new file called an executable image ("exe") file.

The two phases together are often referred to as "building" the executable.

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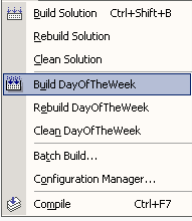
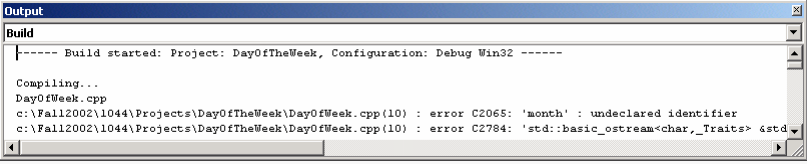
## Building in Visual C++ .NET

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You can attempt to build an executable for your Project by selecting the Build option from the Build menu:

It is entirely possible that the compilation phase will find errors in your C++ code. In fact, if you typed the given example code exactly as given, errors are guaranteed.

The compiler will generate error messages describing the things it found wrong in your C++ code. Those messages will be displayed in the Output panel:

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## Interpreting Error Messages

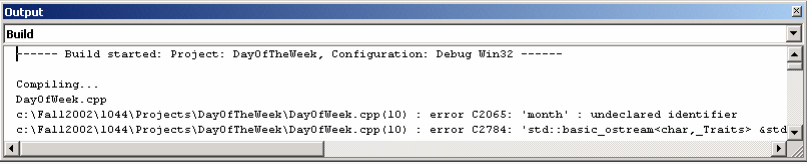
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The error messages generated by the compiler attempt to describe some grammatical (syntax) error in your C++ language code.

Understanding what an error message means requires that you have some understanding of the grammar of the C++ language.

In many cases, the meaning is very clear.

In others, the message may be phrased in a way that only a "language lawyer" would understand. It gets better with experience.



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## Finding the Location of an Error

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Notice the compiler error messages in the lower window. Double click on an error message, and the line\* with the error will be indicated in the code edit window:

```

DayOfTheWeek.cpp
(Globals)
main
int mon, day, year;

cout << "Enter a date for which you wish to know" << endl;
cout << "the day of the week (MM DD YYYY)? ";
cin << month >> day >> year;

Output
Build
----- Build started: Project: DayOfTheWeek, Configuration: Debug Win32 -----

Compiling...
DayOfTheWeek.cpp
c:\Fall2002\1044\Projects\DayOfTheWeek\DayOfTheWeek.cpp(10) : error C2065: 'month': undeclared identifier
c:\Fall2002\1044\Projects\DayOfTheWeek\DayOfTheWeek.cpp(10) : error C2784: 'std::basic_ostream<char, Traits> &std::op
c:\Fall2002\1044\Projects\DayOfTheWeek\DayOfTheWeek.cpp(10) : error C2784: 'std::basic_ostream<char, Traits> &std::op
error C2065: 'month': undeclared identifier
Ln 10 Col 1 Ch 1 INS
  
```

\* Well, more or less...

## Correcting Errors

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Once you have determined the cause of the error message, you merely edit your C++ language code to correct the problem.

You might want to attempt to correct several errors at once, or attempt to re-build after each change. It is important to consider the error messages in the order they are generated. In many cases, one mistake in your code may produce an avalanche of error messages.

In our case, the first error is fairly simple. C++ grammar requires that every identifier (variable name) must be formally declared before it is used. In this case, we have a spelling error, but it is in the declaration a few lines up from the flagged line:

```

DayOfTheWeek.cpp*
(Globals)
main
int month, day, year;

cout << "Enter a date for which you wish to know" << endl;
cout << "the day of the week (MM DD YYYY)? ";
cin << month >> day >> year;
  
```

## Error List A1 Visual C++ .NET 17

In case you can't figure out the other errors here are the corrections:

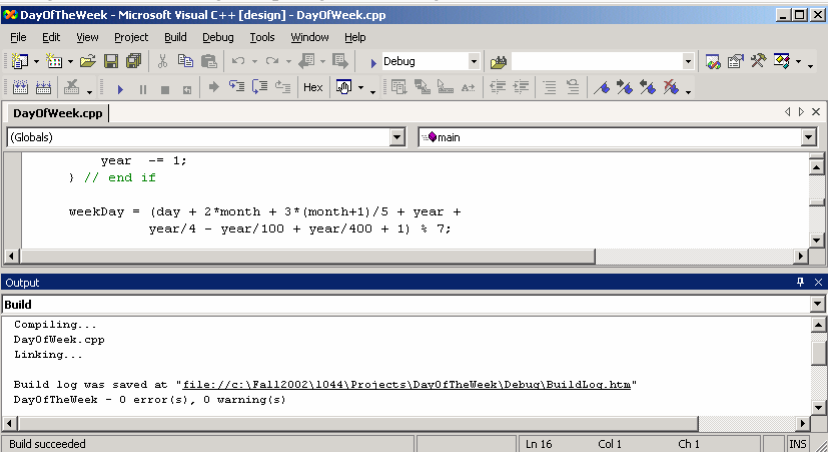
- Line 10: change the << to >>
- Line 21: add a declaration for the name weekDay, right after the declaration for month
- Line 29: change the < to <<
- Line 30: change the spelling of "weekday" to match the capitalization used above
- Line 20: change '{' to '}'

Note that if you didn't format your code like the notes, then the line numbers above won't match.

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## Clean Compilation A1 Visual C++ .NET 18

Once you have corrected all the errors, the Output panel will show the message below, indicating "0 errors" during compiling and linking:



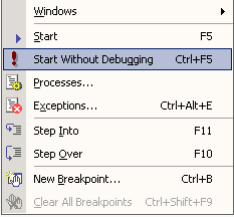
This does NOT mean your program is logically correct, just that the grammar is correct.

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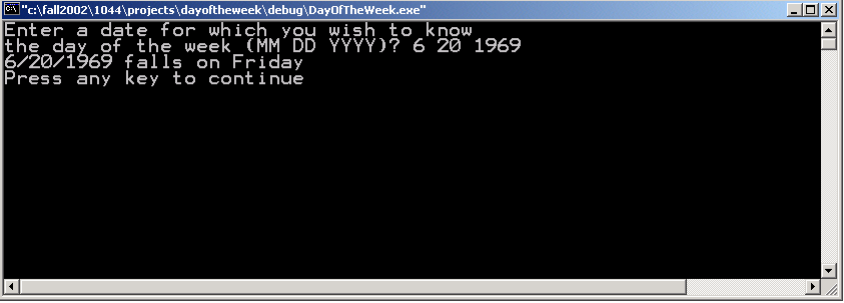
## Executing Your Program

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Now that your code has been compiled into an executable, it is ready to be executed. You can do so by pressing <Ctrl F5> or going to the Debug menu and selecting Start without debugging:



Now you should see a DOS prompt with the program running:



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