

Getting Started

...with your KidCoder™ or TeenCoder™ curriculum.

Updated February 1st, 2012

Thank you for purchasing a KidCoder or TeenCoder course produced by Homeschool Programming, Inc! This document describes what you should see and do after receiving your order. Please read it completely in order to have the best possible experience with your new product.

If you have any questions not answered in this document, please read our online FAQ at http://www.HomeschoolProgramming.com/index.php?main_page=faq

If this document and the FAQ don't help, we are happy to respond to your questions by email to coursehelp@HomeschoolProgramming.com.

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How do I get and view the Instructional Videos?

Instructional Videos are *optional supplements* for a Textbook Kit; not a replacement! They can currently be purchased only through our website. Instructional videos are not automatically bundled with any Textbook Kit purchase, nor are they currently available through any reseller.

If you purchase the videos, they arrive on a DVD disc and will play directly from your computer's DVD drive! The videos require a Flash-enabled web browser to play. They will not play on a TV from an attached DVD player.

What comes with Printed Textbook Kit orders?

If you purchase a *printed* Textbook Kit directly from the Homeschool Programming website or one of our reseller partners, you will receive a physical Student Textbook and accompanying CD or DVD shipped to your address. The disc contains a setup program that, when run, will install the course material on your computer.

You do not need to run the setup program until prompted to do so in the Student Textbook's first chapter activity! There is no harm in installing the course material in advance, but the first activity is where students are guided through the installation.

Are there alternate formats available?

We occasionally offer “electronic” versions of our product through select resellers or our website. In that case your entire curriculum is in electronic format, and the setup program will install all of the material normally on the course CD and a PDF of the Student Textbook well.

In this case, you need to run the setup program first in order to gain access to the Student Textbook through the Student Menu. See instructions below!

Managing Student and Teacher Files

The course setup program will install “Student Files” and/or “Solution Files”.

- The **Student Files** component contains material for the student. It includes any sample programs, activity starters, and supplementary instructional documents (such as installation procedures for the development environment).
- The **Solution Files** component contains material for the teacher or self-guided student. It includes the Solution Guide (PDF document) with fully coded activity solutions, tests, answer keys, etc.

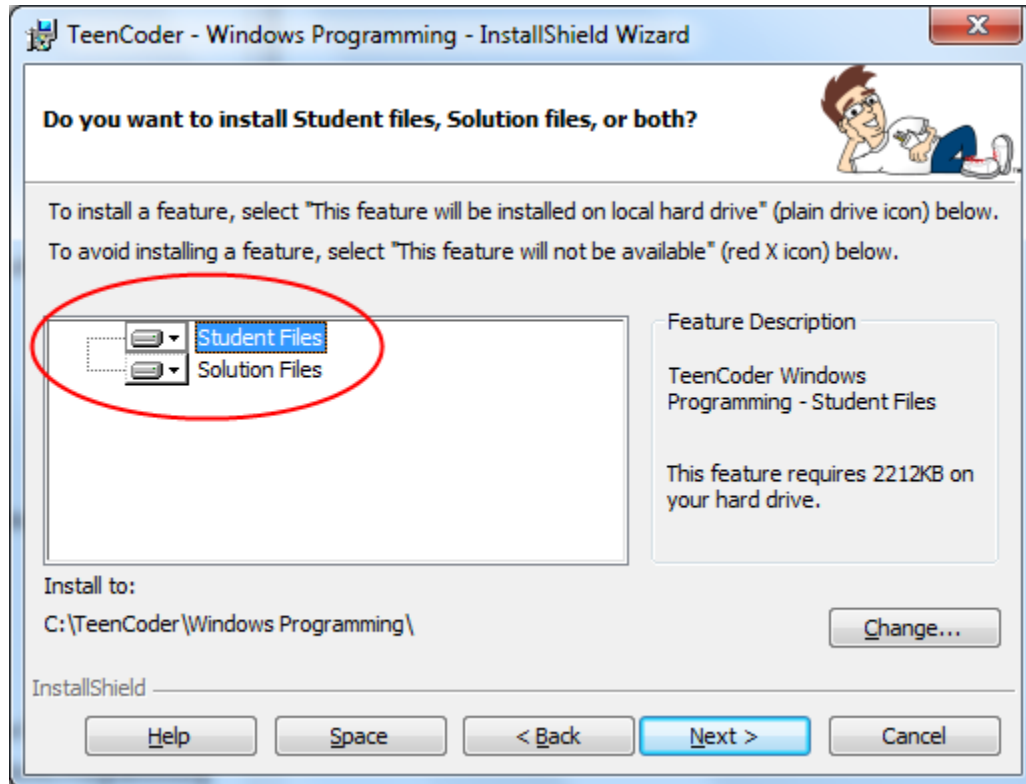
If your student is taking this course as a full self-study unit (or for fun), then you can simply install both **Student Files** and **Solution Files** on the student's computer, and the student can refer to the solutions as needed when questions arise.

If the teacher is administering the course for credit, then install only the **Student Files** on the student's computer, and install **Student Files** (optional) and **Solution Files** on the teacher's computer. The teacher can then administer tests and allow the student to refer to the solutions as needed.

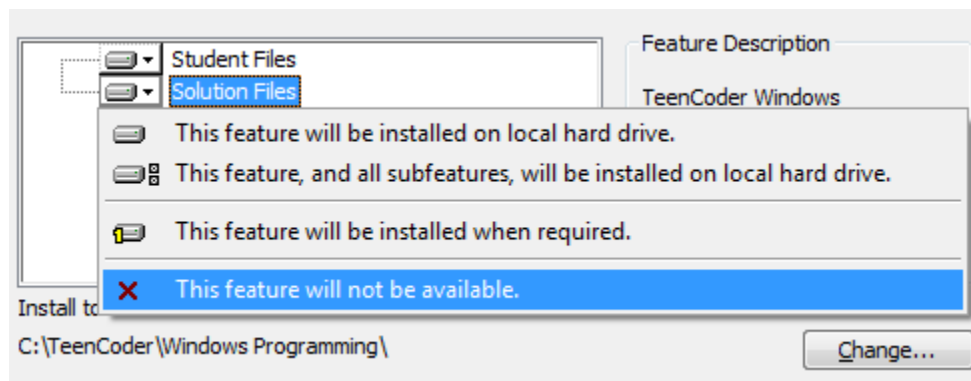
*All installations will receive a **readme.txt** or **readme.rtf** in the root of the target install directory. Please refer to this file for a detailed description of the installed material!*

Installation Walkthrough

Here is an example setup screen from the *TeenCoder: Windows Programming* course (red circle added for emphasis). Other courses are similar!

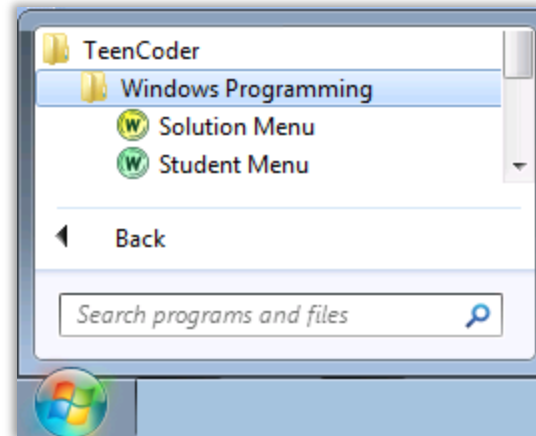


To prevent one of the components from installing, click on the icon next to the component and select “This feature will not be available” with the red “X”:



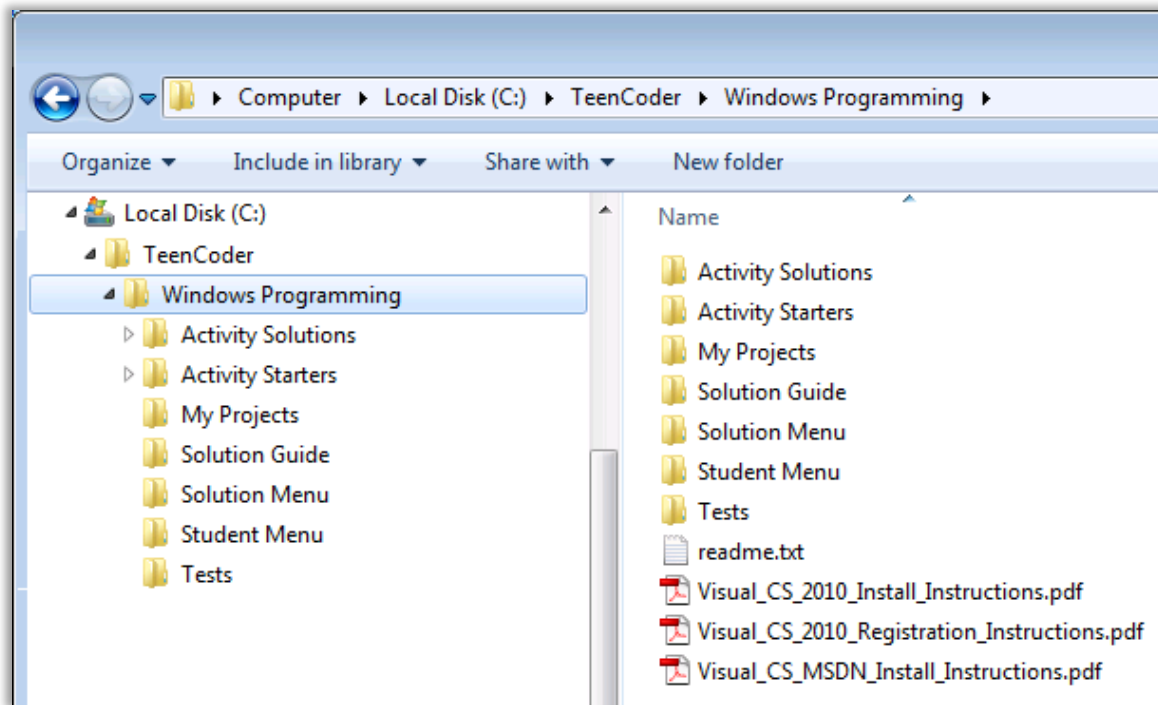
We recommend you use the default installation directory (which is set up by series and course title) as that directory structure will be referred to within the textbook. You may choose an alternate directory if desired, just remember your new location and make the appropriate adjustments when reading the textbook.

When the installation is finished, you will have one or two new items in the Windows Start menu to launch your course material!



Each Menu is simply a convenient graphical wrapper around all of the files and directories that come with your course. Run the menus to get easy access to the supplementary instructional documents, activity starters, activity solutions, tests, etc.

You can also simply navigate to the document or activity directory of interest through Windows Explorer; there is nothing magic about our own Menu system!



Please refer to the section titled “Understanding the Course Files” to understand what programs you need in order to use each of these files!

Accessing any code projects such as Activity Starters or Activity Solutions will require the Microsoft Visual Studio Express software to be installed first. This software will be installed as an early activity in the Student Textbook!

Understanding the Course Files

Depending on the course, you may have a number of files in different directories. The files will fall into one of three categories:

PDF Documents

Your course will contain a number of files ending in the .PDF extension. These are your course documents in a common, portable format established by Adobe. You can view and print the documents using the Adobe Acrobat Reader, available as a free download at <http://get.adobe.com/reader>. Once you install the Acrobat Reader your computer system will launch the reader whenever you try to open a .PDF document. This *Getting Started* document is distributed as a PDF, so if you are reading it then you already have Adobe Acrobat Reader!

You may read the PDF documents on your computer screen or print them on your own printer according to your personal preference.

Software Projects

You will also receive other directories and files containing programming projects. These projects contain sample code and activity solutions as shown in your Student Textbook and Solution Guide. The files will typically end with extensions like *.sln, *.vcproj, *.c, *.vbproj, *.vb, *.csproj, or *.cs depending on the course. **You will use the Microsoft Visual Studio Express software to load, view, and edit these files.** Detailed instructions for installing Visual Studio and managing the project files are contained in an early chapter of your Student Textbook.

If you wish to view the files in advance of installing Visual Studio, they are all actually text files that you can load into any text editor (e.g. Notepad).

At this point you should be able to begin your course starting at the first chapter. The course will walk you through the installation steps for Visual Studio at the appropriate point in the lessons.

Your student will be downloading and installing the FREE Microsoft Visual Studio Express development environment on their computer with detailed instructions contained in the course. Should updates to those instructions become necessary due to changes on Microsoft's website, please refer to our own website for updated instructions!

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