# Micro Focus Visual COBOL 5.0 Build Tools for Windows

Release Notes

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# Visual COBOL Build Tools for Windows Release Notes

These release notes contain information that might not appear in the Help. Read them in their entirety before you install the product.

**Product Overview**

Visual COBOL Build Tools for Windows is a separately-installable component of Visual COBOL that has been designed to be used in environments where you want to work with your COBOL projects but you don't want the overheads associated with an IDE.

Installing Visual COBOL Build Tools for Windows does not install any documentation. Instead, full information on how to use Visual COBOL Build Tools for Windows is included in the documentation for Visual COBOL. The documentation that describes how to use Visual COBOL Build Tools for Windows includes links to the sections of documentation for Visual COBOL that are relevant to Visual COBOL Build Tools for Windows.

# Installation

## Prerequisites for Using Visual COBOL Build Tools for Windows

This section lists any additional software that you need to be able to use Visual COBOL Build Tools for Windows.

### Apache Ant

Apache Ant version 1.9.*x* or later is required if you will be using Visual COBOL Build Tools for Windows to perform build operations using Eclipse project files. You can download Apache Ant from the *Apache Ant project's Binary Distributions page*.

### Microsoft Build Tools

To perform Visual Studio build operations in Visual COBOL Build Tools for Windows you need to use MSBuild which is supplied as part of Microsoft Build Tools for Visual Studio.

You can download Build Tools for Visual Studio from *Microsoft's Visual Studio Downloads page*.

**Note:** MSBuild is also included with Microsoft Visual Studio but Micro Focus typically recommends using Visual COBOL Build Tools for Windows with Build Tools for Visual Studio rather than Visual Studio because of its much smaller footprint.

## Installing Visual COBOL Build Tools for Windows

To install Visual COBOL Build Tools for Windows:

1. Read the following sections of these Release Notes to minimize the chances of encountering issues during or after the installation process:
   - *Licensing Considerations*
   - *Prerequisites for using Visual COBOL Build Tools for Windows*
   - *Restrictions when using Visual COBOL Build Tools for Windows*
2. Run the `vcbt_50.exe` file and follow the wizard instructions to complete the installation.

**Note:**

`vcbt_50.exe` can take a number of parameters, enabling you to specify a number of different types of installation. Examples are as follows:

- Silent Installation

  **Format:** `vcbt_50.exe /quiet`

  **Summary:** Full installation, but the components are installed non-interactively with no user interface, using default options and directories.
- Modified Silent Installation

  **Format:** `vcbt_50.exe /quiet InstallFolder=d:\otherdirectory`

**Summary:** Full installation, but the components are installed non-interactively with no user interface, and Visual COBOL Build Tools for Windows is installed to `d:\otherdirectory`.

To see all of the available parameters, execute the following from the command line:

```
vcbt_50.exe /?
```

# Restrictions when Using Visual COBOL Build Tools for Windows

The following list describes elements of functionality of Visual COBOL Build Tools for Windows that you should be aware of before installing it:

- You cannot install Visual COBOL Build Tools for Windows on the same machine as Visual COBOL, Enterprise Developer, or Enterprise Developer Build Tools for Windows.
- Installing Visual COBOL Build Tools for Windows does not install any documentation. Instead, full information on how to use Visual COBOL Build Tools for Windows is included in the documentation for Visual COBOL. The documentation that describes how to use Visual COBOL Build Tools for Windows includes links to the sections of documentation for Visual COBOL that are relevant to Visual COBOL Build Tools for Windows.
- To debug a COBOL application that is running in Visual COBOL Build Tools for Windows you need to use remote debugging.

  Information on using remote debugging with Visual COBOL Build Tools for Windows is available in your Visual COBOL documentation. See *Remote Debugging of Native COBOL Applications* if you are using Visual COBOL for Visual Studio or *Debugging using a remote machine* if you are using Visual COBOL for Eclipse.
- Remote debugging is not available for .NET COBOL applications, so you cannot use Visual COBOL Build Tools for Windows to debug .NET COBOL applications (although you can use Visual COBOL Build Tools for Windows to build and run them).

# Licensing Considerations

Visual COBOL Build Tools for Windows requires the same license as the Visual COBOL IDE products (i.e. Visual COBOL for Visual Studio or Visual COBOL for Eclipse) so you need to ensure that you have enough licenses to cover your use of both Visual COBOL Build Tools for Windows and any other Visual COBOL development product on Windows.

For example, if you have purchased six development licenses and install one instance of Visual COBOL Build Tools for Windows you can install an IDE-based Visual COBOL product or Visual COBOL Build Tools for Windows on a maximum of five other machines.

# Updates and SupportLine

Our Web site gives up-to-date details of contact numbers and addresses.

## Further Information and Product Support

Additional technical information or advice is available from several sources.

The product support pages contain a considerable amount of additional information, such as:

- The *Product Updates* section of the Micro Focus SupportLine Web site, where you can download fixes and documentation updates. Go to *https://supportline.microfocus.com/websync/productupdatessearch.aspx*
- The *Examples and Utilities* section of the Micro Focus SupportLine Web site, including demos and additional product documentation. Go to *https://supportline.microfocus.com/examplesandutilities/index.aspx*.
- The *Support Resources* section of the Micro Focus SupportLine Web site, that includes troubleshooting guides and information about how to raise an incident. Go to *https://supportline.microfocus.com/supportresources.aspx*

To connect, enter *https://www.microfocus.com* in your browser to go to the Micro Focus home page, then click **Support & Services** > **Support** > **Support Resources** > **All Support Resources by Product**. In the **Browse by Product** field, click the product you require, and then click **Log into SupportLine**.

**Note:** Some information may be available only to customers who have maintenance agreements.

If you obtained this product directly from Micro Focus, contact us as described on the Micro Focus Web site, *https://www.microfocus.com/support-and-services/contact-support/*. If you obtained the product from another source, such as an authorized distributor, contact them for help first. If they are unable to help, contact us.

Also, visit:

- The Micro Focus Community Web site, where you can browse the Knowledge Base, read articles and blogs, find demonstration programs and examples, and discuss this product with other users and Micro Focus specialists. See *https://community.microfocus.com*.
- The Micro Focus YouTube channel for videos related to your product - see *https://www.youtube.com/user/MicroFocusIntl*.

## Information We Need

However you contact us, please try to include the information below, if you have it. The more information you can give, the better Micro Focus SupportLine can help you. But if you don't know all the answers, or you think some are irrelevant to your problem, please give whatever information you have.

- The name and version number of all products that you think might be causing a problem.
- Your computer make and model.
- Your operating system version number and details of any networking software you are using.
- The amount of memory in your computer.
- The relevant page reference or section in the documentation.

# Creating Debug Files

If you encounter an error when compiling a program that requires you to contact Micro Focus SupportLine, your support representative might request that you provide additional debug files (as well as source and data files) to help us determine the cause of the problem. If so, they will advise you how to create them.

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