

Re: Visual Studio 6 vs. .NET 2005

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- *From:* David Wilkinson <no-reply@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>
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Bruno van Dooren wrote:

Were I you, I'd google for the Express Edition of VS 2005, I think it is a free download. If you find that some modern code doesn't compile you may be able to use express. If you find yourself in that situation often, maybe it would pay you to upgrade.

for anything to do with STL and templates you have to use VC2003 or 2005 if you want your code to be standards compliant. VC6 is very bad in that regard, as william already indicated. you can download the express edition for free from microsoft:
<http://msdn.microsoft.com/vstudio/express/visualC/default.aspx>

Just btw, in addition to better standard compliance the new version has support for targetting the .Net framework.

you also need to download the latest platform SDK for windows native programming. one disadvantage is that you don't get MFC and ATL with the free version.

Bruno:

Once again, I would have to disagree with this slamming of VC6. Actually, the C++ Standard Library/STL is very usable in VC6, provided you apply the Dinkumware patches. I have not had any trouble getting my code so it will compile in both VC6 and VC7.1. But I admit I don't make fancy use of the STL, just string, vector, map and a few algorithms. And I do not write many of my own templates.

Rather than the compiler, I am more concerned that VC6 applications will gradually get a dated look, partly because the newer PSDK's will not work with it, and partly because new GUI features will only be implemented in .NET.

David Wilkinson

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