

Re: VC++ 6 vs. VC++ express: please advise

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--Will installing the free VC++ express mess up my installation of VC++6, somehow making that less usable?

No. I have VC6, VC2003 and VC2005 installed on the same system without a problem.

I imagine installing VC express might answer the remaining questions, but I'm a bit afraid to do that without reassurance about its effect on VC++6.

--does VC express have the full ISO C++, including STL?

Yes, But if you want to write windows apps, you need to install the platform SDK as well.

This is explained in more detail on the VC++ express 'getting started' page.

--are there restrictions, like amount of memory used, size of arrays, etc?

Nope. Nothing of the kind. The only limitation is that the express version does not ship with MFC and ATL. It also cannot produce 64 bit executables.

--does it produce reasonably fast code?

Yes. The compiler contains all optimization options that the 'for pay' versions have.

--is it easy to get started?

AFAIK, yes.

--what else does VC express lack that the full commercial product has?

Here is a complete overview:

<http://msdn2.microsoft.com/en-us/library/hs24szh9.aspx>

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--any other comments are welcome

Ditch VC6. It is almost 10 years old. It is not C++ standards compliant. The reason is that the C++ standard was not yet formalized at the time. VC2005 is very standards compliant.

My code is not going to be polished professional work--just a favor for one friend. But I do need STL, operator overloading, reasonable speed of execution, and to be able to read/write text files on disk and display info to the user. Basically, the program is going to read *a lot* of data, do some *lengthy* numerical number crunching, write some results back to disk, and display some results.

That should be absolutely no problem, using VC2005 express.

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Kind regards,
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