

Create a new project.

A "project" can be considered as a container that is used to store all the elements that are required to compile a program.

- Go to the "File" menu and select "New", "Project...".
- Choose "Empty Project" and make sure "C++ project" is selected. Here you will also give your project a name. You can give your project any valid filename, but keep in mind that the name of your project will also be the name of your final executable.
- Once you have entered a name for your project, click "OK".
- Dev-C++ will now ask you where to save your project.

Create/add source file(s).

You can add empty source files one of two ways:

- Go to the "File" menu and select "New Source File" (or just press CTRL+N) OR
- Go to the "Project" menu and select "New File". Note that Dev-C++ will not ask for a filename for any new source file until you attempt to:
 - Compile
 - Save the project
 - Save the source file
 - Exit Dev-C++

Compile.

Once you have entered all of your source code, you are ready to compile.

- Go to the "Execute" menu and select "Compile" (or just press CTRL+F9).

It is likely that you will get some kind of compiler or linker error the first time you attempt to compile a project. Syntax errors will be displayed in the "Compiler" tab at the bottom of the screen. You can double-click on any error to take you to the place in the source code where it occurred. The "Linker" tab will flash if there are any linker errors. Linker errors are generally the result of syntax errors not allowing one of the files to compile.

Once your project successfully compiles, the "Compile Progress" dialog box will have a status of "Done". At this point, you may click "Close".

Execute.

You can now run your program.

- Go to the "Execute" menu, choose "Run".

Disappearing windows?

If you execute your program (with or without parameters), you may notice something peculiar; a console window will pop up, flash some text and disappear. The problem is that, if directly executed, console program windows close after the program exits. You can solve this problem as follows:

Add the following code before any return statement in main() or any exit() or abort() statement (in any function):

```
// code block to fix disappearing console window
char c;
cout << "Press ENTER to continue..." << endl;
cin>>c;
//This code goes right before the 'return';
```

This will give you a chance to view any output before the program terminates and the window closes.