

# **GATS Companion to Installing BOOST**

Author: Garth Santor Editors: Trinh Hān Copyright Dates: 2009, 2020, 2023 Version: 1.1.0 (2023-10-29)

# Overview

How to install BOOST for use within Visual Studio 2022.

BOOST updates frequently but the installation process is essentially the same. As such, the version numbers in the images will be 1.74.0 whereas in the text it will 1.83.0. The website may be even newer!

# Acquiring the files

Go to the website <u>https://www.boost.org/</u> and click the **download** link on the right side of the window.



### Pick the *prebuilt windows binaries* link.

### https://www.boost.org/users/download/

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#### You'll now be on SourceForge. Pick the latest 1.83.0 version link.

https://sourceforge.net/projects/boost/files/boost-binaries/

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There are two binaries you can install, a 32-bit version, and a 64-bit version. These days you'll likely only need the 64-bit version (Visual C++ 2022 defaults to 64-bit builds). You'll also have to select the release for the current version of Visual Studio 2022. As of this writing, the updated version of Visual Studio 2022 is compiler is **17.7.6**, but the binary format is **14.3**, so that's the version we will use.

https://sourceforge.net/projects/boost/files/boost-binaries/1.83.0/

Download both:

- boost\_1\_83\_0-msvc\_14.3-32.exe
- boost\_1\_83\_0-msvc\_14.3-64.exe

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You should now have the two new files in your download folder...

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## Install the libraries

The two files you downloaded are self-extracting archives. You'll need about 4GiB of free memory (ideally on drive C). There are two reasons drive C is the best choice:

Compatibility: System configuration and portability will be better (hopefully seamless) if we all use the same location.

**Performance**: Many of us will have a solid-state drive (SSD) as their primary drive. I have a 2 TiB SSD for my primary drive (drive C:) and a slightly slower 4 TiB SDD for my secondary drive (drive D:). Since boost has a huge number of small header files (15,673 in version 1.83.0) the lower latency and higher transfer rate of an SSD will provide a noticeable improvement when compiling.

You'll install each library (one after the other) as many of the files will be overwritten by the other. The order you install them doesn't matter. Double click either archive and follow the steps below.

You'll probably see this as soon as you run the installer.



Click More info, you should see:

#### Click Run anyway.

It is best to use the default folder (C: drive), so just click Next >.

# Setup - boost_1_74_0-msvc-14.2-32 − □ ×	Setup - boost_1_74_0-msvc-14.2-32 −
Select Destination Location Where should Boost-Windows be installed?	Installing Please wait while Setup installs Boost-Windows on your computer.
<ul> <li>Setup will install Boost-Windows into the following folder. If you are installing multiple architectures of this version (e.g. msvc-8.0-32 and msvc-11.0-64 of boost_1_50_0) you can install them to the same directory and they will both work from there.</li> <li>To continue, dick Next. If you would like to select a different folder, dick Browse.</li> <li>C:\local\boost_1_74_0</li> </ul>	Extracting files C:\local\boost_1_74_0\boost\spirit\home\classic\core\non_terminal\impl\grammar.ipp
At least 1,721.0 MB of free disk space is required.	
Next > Cancel	Cancel

Installation could take several minutes, depending on the speed of your drive, RAM, and CPU. My desktop installs boost in about 1 minute, but I've seen some system take more than 20 minutes to install.

When complete, do the same for the 64-bit version.



# Setting the Project Properties for Visual C++ with BOOST

Visual Studio 2017 and earlier had global property pages, but they were removed in Visual Studio 2019 (they haven't said why...)

We'll need a new C++ project loaded into Visual Studio 2022. We'll create a *Hello, BOOST!* application to test our configuration.

#### Use the Windows Desktop Wizard to create a hello world desktop application.

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S. Python Application Python	Since we used to with C++ for Windows. Provides no starting files. C++ Windows Comole
	Console App Run costs we Windows terminal. Prints "Hello World" by default.
	C++ Windows Console
	Create your own Windows app using a wizard. C++ Windows Console Desitop Library
	A project for an application with a graphical user interface that runs on Windows.
	C++ Windows Desktop
	A Shared Items project is used for sharing files between multiple projects. C++ Android IOS Linux Windows Console Desitop Games Library
	Mobile UWP Mobile UWP Mindows - C++/(CK)
	A project for a single-page Universal Windows Platform (UWP) app that has no predefined controls or layout.
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Name the project...

# Verify **Console Application** (.exe) as the application type, no additional options need to

be checked.

```
Ignoring the comments your
                           #include <iostream>
source code should appear as:
                           int main() {
                                std::cout << "Hello World!\n";</pre>
                           }
Modify the code to use a
                           #include <iostream>
header-only boost library.
                           using namespace std;
                           #include <boost/multiprecision/cpp_int.hpp>
                           using namespace boost::multiprecision;
                           int main() {
                                cout << "Hello World!\n";</pre>
                                cpp_int big("1234567890123456789012345678901234567890");
                           }
```

### Configuring Boost for one project only: (easiest)

Open the project properties for your solution (the wrench icon, or menu Project  $\rightarrow$  Properties). Let's configure for the latest version of C++. Make certain that you have 'All Configurations' and 'All Platforms' selected.

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Configuration Properties	General Properties	
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Advanced	Intermediate Directory	<different options=""></different>
Debugging	Target Name	\$(ProjectName)
VC++ Directories	Configuration Type	Application (.exe)
▷ C/C++	Windows SDK Version	10.0 (latest installed version)
> Linker	Platform Toolset	Visual Studio 2022 (v143)
Manifest Tool	C++ Language Standard	Preview - Features from the Latest C++ Working Draft (/std:c++latest)
NMI Document Generator	C Language Standard	Default (Legacy MSVC)
<ul> <li>Browse Information</li> </ul>		
<ul> <li>Custom Build Step</li> <li>Code Analysis</li> </ul>		
	C++ Language Standard Determines the C++ language standard th (/std:c++14, /std:c++17, /std:c++20, /std:	ne compiler will enforce. It is recommended to use the latest version when possible. :c++latest)
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# Then set the library directories (once for each platform). 64-bit:

nfiguration: All Configurations		orm: x64	$\rightarrow$	~	Configuration Manage
Configuration Properties	✓ General				
General	Executable Directories	\$(VC_Exect	utablePath_x64);\$(CommonE	xecutablePath)	
Advanced	Include Directories	c:\local\b	oost_1_83_0;\$(IncludePath	)	
Debugging	External Include Directories	\$(VC_Inclu	dePath):\$(WindowsSDK_Incl	udePath);	
VC++ Directories	Reference Directories	\$(VC_Refe	rencesPath_x64);		
▷ C/C++	Library Directories	c:\local\b	oost_1_83_0\lib64-msvc-14	.3;\$(LibraryPa	nth)
> Linker	Library WinRT Directories	\$(Window	sSDK_MetadataPath);	-	
Manifest Tool	Source Directories	\$(VC Sour	cePath);		
	Exclude Directories	\$(Commo	nExcludePath):\$(VC Executab	lePath x64):\$(V	/C LibraryPath x64)
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If you are not using property sheets, you can skip to the next section.

# Compiling Boost with C++ 23

Boost 1.83.0 isn't quite ready for C++ 23. It still uses some deprecated features and Visual C++ will complain!

Until Boost catches up with the standard, we can block the compiler from issuing a torrent of errors and warnings about boost using old features. Add the following to your application properties:

hellobost Property Pages			? ×
Configuration: All Configurations	<ul> <li>✓ Platform:</li> </ul>	All Platforms	<ul> <li>Configuration Manager</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Configuration Properties         <ul> <li>General</li> <li>Advanced</li> <li>Debugging</li> <li>VC++ Directories</li> <li>C/C++</li> <li>General</li> <li>Optimization</li> </ul> </li> <li>Preprocessor</li> </ul>	Preprocessor Definitions Undefine Preprocessor Definitions Undefine All Preprocessor Definitions Ignore Standard Include Paths Preprocess to a File Preprocess Suppress Line Numbers Keep Comments Use Standard Conforming Preprocessor	SILENCE_ALL_CXX23_DEPRECA No No No No No	TION_WARNINGS; <different options=""></different>
Code Generation Language Precompiled Headers Output Files Browse Information External Includes Advanced All Options Command Line È Linker			
Manifest Tool XML Document Generator	<b>Preprocessor Definitions</b> Defines a preprocessing symbols for your so	urce file.	
			OK Cancel Apply

Your BOOST/C++ program should now compile. The rest of the document is for a more advanced, but unnecessary configuration.

# **Configuring Boost using a Property Page (32-bit)**

You can skip this part if you have used the previous method. Add a new *reusable* project property sheet (32-bit)

Open the Property Manager



Expand the Debug | Win32 folder

Add a new project property sheet

Name the file boost.win32.props and save the property sheet to the boost installation folder C:\local.



<u>D</u>ebug

integer.cpp

Hello, BOOST!

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Architecture

1

Test A

Hello, BOOST

<u>File Edit View Project Build</u>

Property Manager - Microsoft.Cpp.Win32.user -

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-

Browse...



Add Cancel

ρ-

boost.win32.props

C:\local\

Name: Location: Open the property sheet.



Select the **VC++ Directories** tab.

### Edit the include paths.

Add a new line...

boost.win32 Property Pages				? ×
Configuration: N/A	✓ P	latform: N/A		<ul> <li>Configuration Manager</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Common Properties General User Macros</li> <li>VC++ Directories</li> <li>C/C++</li> <li>Linker</li> <li>Manifest Tool</li> <li>Librarian</li> <li>Resources</li> <li>MIDL</li> <li>XML Document Generator</li> <li>Browse Information</li> <li>Build Events</li> <li>Custom Build Step</li> <li>Copy File</li> <li>Managed Resources</li> <li>Custom Build Tool</li> <li>XML Data Generator Tool</li> <li>Code Analysis</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>✓ General Executable Directories</li> <li>Include Directories</li> <li>Library Directories</li> <li>Library WinRT Directories</li> <li>Source Directories</li> <li>Exclude Directories</li> </ul>	is \$(VC ; <edi \$(VC ories \$(Wi \$(VC \$(Co</edi 	_ExecutablePath_x86);\$(Com _IncludePath);\$(WindowsSD t> _IibraryPath_x86);\$(Window IndowsSDK_MetadataPath); _SourcePath); mmonExcludePath);\$(VC_Ex	ImonExecutablePath) IK_IncludePath); irsSDK_LibraryPath_x86) ecutablePath_x86);\$(VC_LibraryPat
▷ HLSL Compiler	Include Directories Path to use when search variable INCLUDE.	iing for include files w	hile building a VC++ project	t. Corresponds to environment
			ОК	Cancel Apply
Include Directories			? ×	
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			$\sim$	
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Evaluated value:				
C:\Program Files (x86)\I C:\Program Files (x86)\I <	Microsoft Visual St Microsoft Visual St	tudio\2019\En tudio\2019\En	terprise\V( terprise\V( >	
Inherited values:				
\$(VC_IncludePath) \$(WindowsSDK_Include	Path)		<b>^</b>	
✓ Inherit from parent o	or project defaults		Macros>>	
		ОК	Cancel	

GATS



You should see...

The \$(IncludePath) must be there as it represents the original path from the default configuration. Add to the library path.

Note that we must specify which of the two libraries we want.

In this case we want the Win32 library, so we pick the **lib32-msvc-14.2** folder

Library Directories ?  $\times$ C:\local\boost 1 74 0\lib32-msvc-14.2 < > Evaluated value: C:\local\boost\_1\_74\_0\lib32-msvc-14.2 ~ C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft Visual Studio\2019\Enterprise\V( > < Inherited values: \$(VC\_LibraryPath\_x86) \$(WindowsSDK\_LibraryPath\_x86) Ū, ☑ Inherit from parent or project defaults Macros>> OK Cancel boost.win32 Property Pages ?  $\times$ Platform: N/A Configuration: N/A Common Properties ✓ General Executable Directories \$(VC ExecutablePath x86):\$(CommonExecutablePath) General Include Directories C:\local\boost\_1\_74\_0;\$(IncludePath) User Macros Reference Directories \$(VC ReferencesPath x86): VC++ Directories C:\local\boost\_1\_74\_0\lib32-msvc-14.2;\$(LibraryPath) Library Directo ▷ C/C++ Library WinRT Directories \$(WindowsSDK MetadataPath): ▷ Linker \$(VC SourcePath): Source Directories ▷ Manifest Tool \$(CommonExcludePath);\$(VC\_ExecutablePath\_x86);\$(VC\_LibraryPat Exclude Directories ▷ Librarian Resources ▶ MIDI XML Document Generator Browse Information Build Events ▷ Custom Build Step ▷ Copy File Managed Resources Custom Build Tool ▷ XML Data Generator Tool Code Analysis HLSL Compiler Library Directories Path to use when searching for library files while building a VC++ project. Corresponds to environment variable LIB. OK Cancel Apply

You should see...

#### Click OK

Test the configuration...

Run the program. The errors should disappear and the project should build and execute.



### Adding the property sheet to release mode

The release build uses the same header files as debug mode, and those header files instruct the linker to use the correct debug/release libraries. So, we can reuse the property page from the debug build in the release build.

Switch to release mode.

You'll notice that the include directive, the using statement, and the object definition are generating errors again.

Expand the Release | Win32 tab in the Property Manager

Build Debug Archi	itecture Test	Analyze Too	ols Extensions Wii
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File     Edit     View     Project     Build       Image: Im	Debug Architecture Test	Analyze teger.cpp	
<ul> <li>Image: Second Second</li></ul>	1 □// 2 // 3 4 #i 5 us 6 #i 7 us 8 9 ⊡in 10 {	Hell execu nclud ing n nclud ing n t mai	

Add the existing property sheet.



👎 Hello, BOOST!

### Configure for 64-bit builds

The 64-bit (x64) configurations use the same header files, but different libraries. Libraries specifically built with the 64bit compiler.

The process will be similar to the x86 installation:

- Create a property sheet in the boost folder •
- Set the paths: same include, 64-bit binaries
- Add to both configurations.

# Switch to the 64-bit (x64) build.

View Project Build	Debug A	Architecture	Test	Analyze	Tools	Extensions	Windov
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	_		x64				
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↓ 🗎	🔁 Hello,	BOOST!	Confi	guration M	anager	<b>-</b> (	Global Sco
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		2	11				

# Add a new project property sheet to Debug | x64

Name the file boost.x64.props and save it in the C:\local folder.



Add New Item		? ×
▲ Installed	Sort by: Default	Search (Ctrl+E)
Add New Property Sheet	Property Sheet (Add New Property Sheet	Type: Add New Property Sheet
▶ Online		Creates a Visual C++ project property sheet file
Name: boost.x64.prop	3	
Location: C:\local\	•	Browse
		Add Cancel

Configure the paths.

Note that the library path points to the 64-bit folder.

boost.x64 Property Pages		? ×
Configuration: N/A	<ul> <li>Platform:</li> </ul>	N/A · Configuration Manager
Common Properties General User Macros VC++ Directories VC++ Directories VC++ Linker Manifest Tool Librarian Resources MIDL XML Document Generator Browse Information Build Events Custom Build Step Copy File Managed Resources Custom Build Tool XML Data Generator Tool XML Data Generator Tool Code Analysis	<ul> <li>✓ General</li> <li>Executable Directories</li> <li>Include Directories</li> <li>Reference Directories</li> <li>Library Directories</li> <li>Library WinRT Directories</li> <li>Source Directories</li> <li>Exclude Directories</li> </ul>	\$(VC_ExecutablePath_x64);\$(CommonExecutablePath) <u>C:UoearNotoost_1740;\$(IncludePath)</u> \$(VC_ReferencesPath_x64); <u>C:UocalNoost_1740\lib64-msvc-14.2;\$(LibraryPath)</u> <u>\$Q4/inclowsSDK_MetadataPath);</u> \$(VC_SourcePath); \$(VC_SourcePath); \$(CommonExcludePath);\$(VC_ExecutablePath_x64);\$(VC_LibraryPath_x64); \$(CommonExcludePath);\$(VC_ExecutablePath_x64);\$(VC_LibraryPath_x64); \$(CommonExcludePath);
▷ HLSL Compiler	Library Directories Path to use when searching for librar variable LIB.	ry files while building a VC++ project. Corresponds to environment
		OK Cancel Apply

Add the file you just created to the release configuration as well.

### New projects

For new projects you'll only need to add the existing property sheets to the appropriate project type in the project manager.

Save and test both configurations

# **Document History**

Version	Date	Activity
0.0.0	2009	Document created
1.0.0	2020-09-09	Updated for Visual Studio Community 2019
1.1.0	2023-10-29	Updated for Visual Studio Community 2022