VBE_Extras manual install (using .reg files)

Install / update VBE_Extras without running a .exe file

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Start here …

You do not need 'administrator' permissions for your device to carry out these instructions: all of the registry keys and values are added to the HKEY_CURRENT_USER hive (i.e. for you only), which you can normally edit without them. If you see a 'User Account Control' prompt when you run a .reg file, you can click 'Yes' if it is for your own account … but do not enter the details of a different (administrator) account, as the registry keys would then be added for that account instead of for you. If your organisation has disabled registry editing on your device then .reg files cannot be used … use the 'installer.xlsm' Workbook option instead (see the 'manual install - using workbook' instructions, also in the .zip file).

Ensure you have read, and that your device meets, the 'System Requirements' at https://thevbahelp.com/vbe-extras#vbe-extras-system-requirements.

The 'install.reg' and 'uninstall.reg' files add (and remove) VBE_Extras for all host applications that VBE_Extras works within (Excel, Word, Outlook, PowerPoint, Access, Visio, Project and Publisher) and for both 32-bit and 64-bit versions of them … you do not need to know the 'bitness' of Office or of Windows.

These instructions do not support installing VBE_Extras on devices that have multiple ("side-by-side") Office versions. While VBE_Extras should install and run okay in this scenario, I cannot offer guarantees and I cannot offer specific support.

Note that everywhere in these instructions, the use of speech marks is to indicate values for you to create, add, find etc. … none of these values include the speech-marks themselves.

Warning

'install.reg' adds only VBE_Extras' own keys, under HKEY_CURRENT_USER (for you only), and 'uninstall.reg' removes them. As with any .reg file, change nothing in it except the "CodeBase" paths.

If you want to, back up your registry first: see https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/topic/how-to-back-up-and-restore-the-registry-in-windows-855140ad-e318-2a13-2829-d428a2ab0692.

Install

Close all VBA-enabled applications (including Excel, Word, Outlook, PowerPoint, Access, Visio, Project and Publisher).

EULA

Read the End User Licence Agreement file ("End User Licence Agreement.pdf"). If you do not agree with any aspect of the End User Licence Agreement then do not proceed with installation. Remove the files from your device.

Files

Identify a folder in which the VBE_Extras program files can run from … this must be a local folder on your device. The recommendation (which is the same as for an automated install) is a folder called "VBE_Extras" (that you will have to create) within the folder "C:\Users\<profile folder>\AppData\Local\Programs" … to go straight to it, type "%LOCALAPPDATA%\Programs" into the address bar of File Explorer and press Enter. If you cannot see the AppData folder … it does exist! If you cannot see it, in the View tab of the File Explorer ribbon/menu, check 'Hidden Items'.

If you didn't already, unblock the .zip file:

- Right-click on it and select Properties … if, at the bottom of the resulting dialog, you can see an 'Unblock' checkbox then check (tick) it and click OK (this step is important: Windows marks files that are downloaded from the internet as blocked, and blocked files can be prevented from running)
- For an example of the Properties dialog showing the 'Unblock' checkbox see my post "Unblock a file containing VBA code" at https://www.thevbahelp.com/post/unblock-a-file-containing-vba-code (while the context - VBA – is different, the process of Unblocking is exactly the same)

Unzip the .zip file.

Within the unzipped folder of files, open the 'installation files' folder and copy the following files to the newly created "VBE_Extras" folder:

- LibraryFormsFramework.dll
- LibraryGeneralFramework.dll
- LibraryGeneralStandard.dll
- VBE_Extras.dll
- VBE_Extras.dll.config
- VBE_Extras.pdb

If you didn't unblock the .zip file, you must now unblock each of the individual files (same process as for the .zip file, noted just above).

Registry

Read the Warning before proceeding.

Within the unzipped folder of files, open the 'registry files' folder. It contains two files: 'install.reg' (to install, update or repair VBE_Extras) and 'uninstall.reg' (to uninstall VBE_Extras).

Right-click 'install.reg' and select 'Edit' (on Windows 11, you may first need to select 'Show more options') … the file will open in Notepad. Do not double-click it yet.

The file contains four "CodeBase" values, each of which is the path to the VBE_Extras.dll file and includes the text "YOUR-PROFILE-FOLDER" which you must replace (a .reg file cannot find the path for you):

- If you used the recommended folder (see Files): in Notepad, select Edit > Replace, enter "YOUR-PROFILE-FOLDER" in 'Find what' and the name of your profile folder in 'Replace with', then click 'Replace All'. To find the name of your profile folder, type "%LOCALAPPDATA%" into the address bar of File Explorer and press Enter … the address bar will then show a path in the form "C:\Users\<profile folder>\AppData\Local" … note that the name of your profile folder is not always the same as your username … if the path does not start with "C:\Users\", follow the next bullet instead: your VBE_Extras.dll file is in that path followed by "\Programs\VBE_Extras"
- If you used a different folder: replace the whole of each of the four "CodeBase" paths with the path to your VBE_Extras.dll file … the path must start with "file:///" and must use forward slashes ("/") rather than backslashes ("\"), for example "file:///D:/Programs/VBE_Extras/VBE_Extras.dll"

Do not change anything else in the file. Save it (keeping the same name and encoding) then close Notepad.

Double-click 'install.reg'. When asked whether you want to continue, click 'Yes'.

If the resulting message:

- Includes the text "The keys and values contained in … have been successfully added to the registry" then this step of the installation was successful
- Includes the text "Registry editing has been disabled by your administrator" then you cannot use .reg files on your device … use the 'installer.xlsm' Workbook option instead
- Includes the text "Cannot import" or "The specified file is not a registry script" then check the changes that you made in Notepad (right-click the file and select 'Edit') and try again

Test

Open your favoured VBA-enabled application. Open the VBE within it. If successful, you will see a 'VBE_Extras' menu item in the main menu. If you see a message that "VBE_Extras could not be loaded … do you want to remove it?" then answer "No" … if you accidentally answer "Yes" then you will need to run 'install.reg' again before testing again. For any other problems, see Troubleshooting.

Following a successful install, make a note of the path to the "VBE_Extras" folder in which you saved the VBE_Extras program files … you will need it if/when following the Update process.

If you mainly develop VBA code within Excel, you may want to also download and install 'VBE_Extras helper'. To learn what 'VBE_Extras helper' does, see the 'Shapes, Tables and Names (Excel only)' section at https://www.thevbahelp.com/vbe-extras … download 'VBE_Extras helper' at https://www.thevbahelp.com/vbe-extras-download.

Troubleshooting

If you identify and fix an error, whether with a registry key/value or with a file or with something else, in order to test what you have fixed, you will have to:

- *Run 'install.reg' again … it re-writes every key and value, including setting "LoadBehavior" back to 3 (if "LoadBehavior" is 0, the VBE will not even attempt to load VBE_Extras)*
- *Close and re-open the application (not just the VBE) to test if it does now work. This is because closing the VBE window actually only hides it … it does not really close the VBE … and so re-opening the VBE window does not re-start the VBE and so the VBE will not attempt to load VBE_Extras*

When opening the VBE, if you do not see the 'VBE_Extras' menu item in the main menu and you receive no error message then check that 'install.reg' ran successfully (see Registry) … if you are not sure, run it again.

However, if you see a message that "VBE_Extras could not be loaded … do you want to remove it?" then check that all of the files listed in Files are in the "VBE_Extras" folder and that the four "CodeBase" paths in 'install.reg' point to the VBE_Extras.dll file in that folder (see Registry), then run 'install.reg' again … whether you answered "Yes" or "No" to that message.

If, when you try to show the Code Navigator, you see a message that "The Code Navigator toolwindow could not be created … a component is not registered on this device" then the registry keys that the Code Navigator needs are missing (the instructions for versions of VBE_Extras before 1.7.4.2 did not add them) … run the 'install.reg' file that came with your version of VBE_Extras again (see Registry).

For other error messages or problems, see 'Installation troubleshooting' section of the VBE_Extras user guide, at https://www.thevbahelp.com/vbe-extras-help.

If you still have problems, carefully check the steps above … including the "CodeBase" paths in 'install.reg' … typos or even extra spaces at the start or end of a path can prevent VBE_Extras from being loaded.

If you still have problems, if you have other VBE AddIns that load when the VBE starts, temporarily disable them: in the VBE, select Add-Ins > Add-In Manager then remove the checkmark next to 'Loaded/Unloaded' and 'Load on Startup'. If you see VBE_Extras in this dialog, ensure 'Loaded/Unloaded' and 'Load on Startup' are checked for it. Then close the VBE and close the host application and try again to open the VBE. Having done this, you can replace the checkmarks for the other VBE AddIns.

If you still have problems, contact me at john@thevbahelp.com. Include the following table (with your answers) in your email:

Question	Your answer
Describe what happens when you open the VBE … if you receive an error dialog, include the exact text.	
What version of the .NET Framework is installed on your device? ‡	
The version of Office (e.g. 2019, 2021, 365 etc) … and that you only have 1 version of Office on the device?	
The bitness of Office (i.e. 32-bit or 64-bit)?	
The version of Windows?	
The bitness of Windows (i.e. 32-bit or 64-bit)?	
The version of VBE_Extras you are installing?	
The path to your VBE_Extras.dll file?	
Names of any other VBE Add-Ins?	
Whether you are performing an install or an update (if the latter, from which version)?	

Additionally, include:

- A screenshot of the files in the VBE_Extras installation folder.
- Your edited 'install.reg' file.

‡ see https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/dotnet/framework/migration-guide/how-to-determine-which-versions-are-installed#detect-net-framework-45-and-later-versions

Update

VBE_Extras will still tell you when an update is available. As you performed a 'manual install', it offers to open the manual-install page (where you can download the new version) or, if you choose, to download and run the installer (a .exe file), so:

- If you performed a 'manual install' because you CANNOT carry out an automated install (e.g. you cannot run .exe files) then you will need to follow the below instructions to manually update VBE_Extras
- If you performed a 'manual install' because you DID NOT WANT to carry out an automated install then you can now choose to either follow the below instructions to manually update VBE_Extras or revert to automatic updates … if you want to do the latter, you should first follow the Uninstall process as the location of the files may be different depending on the location you selected. Having uninstalled, you can then download and perform an automatic install of VBE_Extras from https://www.thevbahelp.com/vbe-extras-download. Note that you can retain any VBE_Extras settings during the uninstall process and your VBE_Extras licence will still be valid (though you may have to re-activate it within VBE_Extras following the install … VBE_Extras will guide you through the activation process if necessary).

To manually update, close all VBA-enabled applications (including Excel, Word, Outlook, PowerPoint, Access, Visio, Project and Publisher).

Download the latest 'VBE_Extras_Manual_Install.zip' file from https://www.thevbahelp.com/vbe-extras-manual-install.

Unblock the .zip file (see Files) then extract the files from the .zip file.

EULA

Read the End User Licence Agreement file ("End User Licence Agreement.pdf"). If you do not agree with any aspect of the End User Licence Agreement then do not proceed with the update, instead follow Uninstall.

Files

- Identify the "VBE_Extras" folder in which the VBE_Extras program files are currently located (see Files)

- Move the new versions of the files that are included in the .zip file into this "VBE_Extras" folder, overwriting any existing files
- If you didn't unblock the .zip file before unzipping it, then unblock the individual files (see Files)

Registry

Read the Warning before proceeding.

Within the newly unzipped folder of files, open the 'registry files' folder and edit the 'install.reg' file in exactly the same way as when you first installed (see Registry) so that it points to the same VBE_Extras.dll file as before, then double-click it.

Always use the 'install.reg' file that came with the version of VBE_Extras that you are updating to: it already contains the new version number. It also adds any registry keys that are missing, for example those that the Code Navigator needs if you are updating from a version of VBE_Extras before 1.7.4.2.

Test

Open your favoured VBA-enabled application. Open the VBE within it. If successful, you will see the 'VBE_Extras' menu item in the main menu and 'About VBE_Extras' will indicate the new version number. If you see a message that "VBE_Extras could not be loaded … do you want to remove it?" then answer "No" … if you accidentally answer "Yes" then you will need to run 'install.reg' again before testing again.

If you receive an error message when opening the VBE or if the 'VBE_Extras' menu item is not present, see Troubleshooting, above.

Uninstall

Note that if you only want to stop VBE_Extras from loading (i.e. if you may want to use it again in the future) you can just temporarily unload it: in the VBE, select Add-Ins > Add-In Manager then select VBE_Extras and then remove the checkmark next to 'Loaded/Unloaded' and 'Load on Startup'. Close the dialog.

If you want to uninstall VBE_Extras, then close all VBA-enabled applications (including Excel, Word, Outlook, PowerPoint, Access, Visio, Project and Publisher).

Registry

Read the Warning before proceeding.

Within the unzipped folder of files (from the .zip file for VBE_Extras), open the 'registry files' folder and double-click 'uninstall.reg' (it does not need to be edited). When asked whether you want to continue, click 'Yes'. This deletes all of the VBE_Extras registry keys, including any that were added by the instructions for earlier versions of VBE_Extras.

Files

Delete all files in the installation folder then delete the installation folder itself.

VBE_Extras saves settings, logs and restore points (backup copies of your code, made before a refactoring) separately. You can optionally delete these by deleting the folder "%LOCALAPPDATA%\VBE_Extras" (you can type that into the address bar of File Explorer).

Test

Open your favoured VBA-enabled application. Open the VBE within it. Check that VBE_Extras does not load.

Sorry to see you go - if you have a minute, please tell me why you uninstalled VBE_Extras: https://www.thevbahelp.com/vbe-extras-uninstall-feedback?install=manual