VBE_Extras manual install (using the Excel Workbook)

Install / update VBE_Extras without running a .exe file

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Start here …

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

Note that the installer Workbook will install, update and uninstall 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, not just for Excel.

Install

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.

Identify a folder in which the VBE_Extras program files can run from … this must be a local folder on your device, not the unzipped download folder. The recommendation (which is the same as for an automated install) is to use 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 Excel will not run the macros in a blocked Workbook, so you would not be able to use the 'installer.xlsm' Workbook)
- 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, including the 'installer.xlsm' Workbook (same process as for the .zip file, noted just above).

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

Open the 'installer.xlsm' Workbook.

Click 'Enable Content' if shown.

Click 'Install' and follow the on-screen instructions.

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 not, see Troubleshooting.

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

When opening the VBE, if you do not see the 'VBE_Extras' menu item in the main menu or if you see a message that "VBE_Extras could not be loaded … do you want to remove it?" then open (if not already) the 'installer.xlsm' Workbook, click 'Repair' and follow the on-screen instructions.

If 'Repair' identifies that one or more files are missing then you can use the 'Open Install Folder' button to open the installation folder and replace the missing files. Note that (if some files are still present but others are missing), you must use files from the same version of VBE_Extras. If you are not sure which version any existing files are from, replace all files, both missing and present, in the folder (for a full list of which files should be in the folder, see Install). Then try to click 'Repair' again.

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 open the 'installer.xlsm' Workbook that came with your version of VBE_Extras (the Workbook that came with versions of VBE_Extras before 1.7.4.2 did not register the component that the Code Navigator needs), click 'Repair' and follow the on-screen instructions.

If the Workbook tells you that the Microsoft .NET Framework 4.8 is not installed, click 'Yes' to open Microsoft's download page, install '.NET Framework 4.8 Runtime', then use the Workbook again … VBE_Extras cannot run without it (see also the 'System Requirements' at https://thevbahelp.com/vbe-extras#vbe-extras-system-requirements).

If 'Repair' does not resolve the problem, see the 'Installation troubleshooting' section of the VBE_Extras user guide, at https://www.thevbahelp.com/vbe-extras-help.

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.

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

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

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.

Close all VBA-enabled applications, including Excel (Excel, Word, Outlook, PowerPoint, Access, Visio, Project and Publisher) … while an application that has opened the VBA Editor is still running, the VBE_Extras files are in use and cannot be overwritten. Opening the 'installer.xlsm' Workbook is fine, but do not open the VBA Editor until the update is finished.

Identify the location of the "VBE_Extras" folder that you created when you first installed. You can use the 'Open Install Folder' button in the 'installer.xlsm' Workbook to help with this.

Move the new versions of the files that are included in the .zip into the "VBE_Extras" folder, overwriting any existing files … it is important that you copy across all of the files listed below even if they appear, to you, to be identical:

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

Open the 'installer.xlsm' Workbook from the newly downloaded .zip file … always use the Workbook that came with the version of VBE_Extras that you are updating to (the Workbook that came with versions of VBE_Extras before 1.7.4.2 cannot register the Code Navigator).

Click 'Update' and follow the on-screen instructions.

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 receive an error message when opening the VBE or if the 'VBE_Extras' menu item is not present or if 'About VBE_Extras' does not indicate the new version number, see Troubleshooting.

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 (Excel, Word, Outlook, PowerPoint, Access, Visio, Project and Publisher) … while an application that has opened the VBA Editor is still running, the VBE_Extras files are in use and cannot be removed.

Open the 'installer.xlsm' Workbook (do not open the VBA Editor).

Click 'Uninstall' and follow the on-screen instructions.

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.