

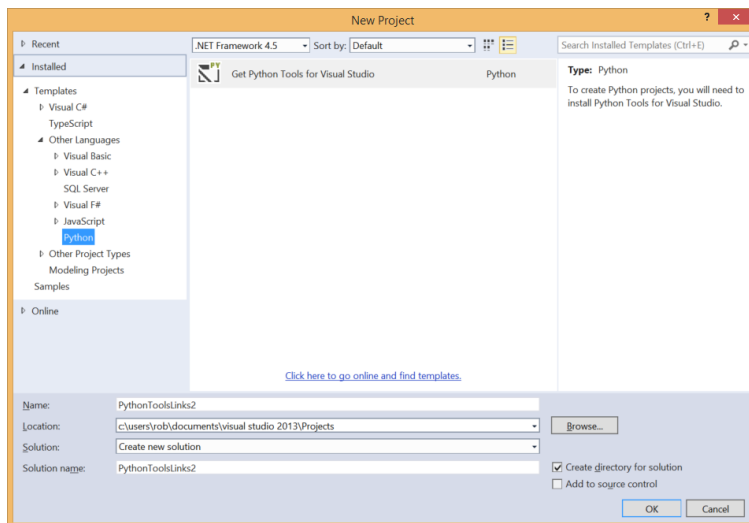
## Getting Started with Iron Python in Visual Studio 2013

I'm starting to like Python quite a bit. However, I'm less impressed with the Python development environments. And I love Visual Studio. Fortunately it turns out that it is very easy to get Python going in Visual Studio 2013. This makes it possible to write and debug Python in the best IDE in the universe.

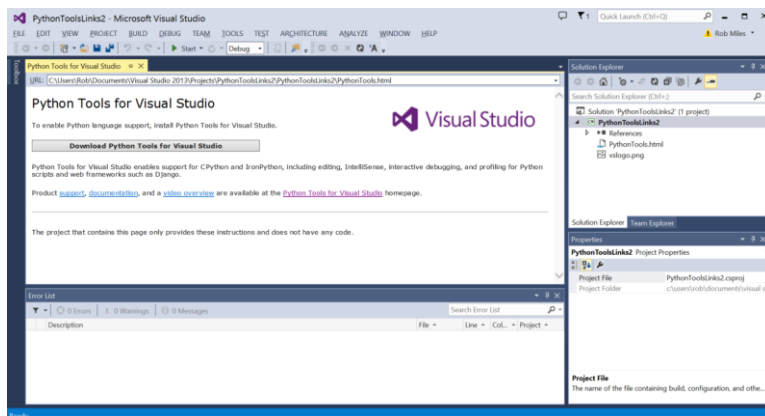
### Installing the Python tools in Visual Studio 2013

If you have Visual Studio 2013 you just have to open Visual Studio 2013 and do this:

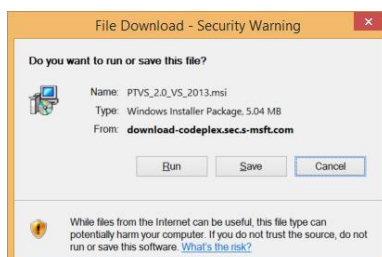
1. Try to create a Python project in Visual Studio 13 (I'm using the Ultimate edition, which is available to students under the Dreamspark initiative)



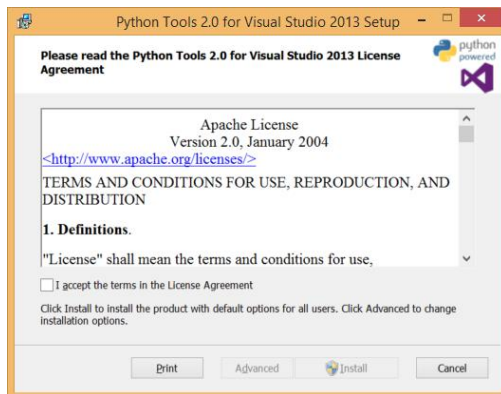
2. Click "Get Python Tools for Visual Studio." This opens up a new window.



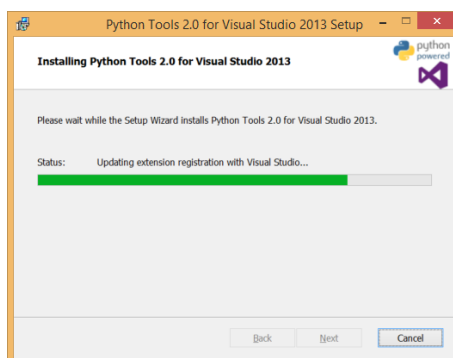
3. Click "Download Python Tools for Visual Studio".



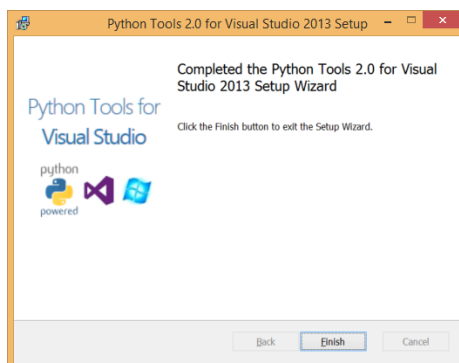
4. Click Run on the File Download warning.



5. Accept the licence terms.



6. The installer will bring in all the required elements and hook them into Visual Studio.



7. Note that this has just installed the Visual Studio tools, you don't yet have Python on your computer.

If you are using a different version of Visual Studio you can find installation details here:

<http://pytools.codeplex.com/>

## Installing Python

Once you have the tools installed, you can add an implementation of Python. This seems a funny way round to do it, but it is how the installation instructions tell you how to do it, so who am I to argue. I went for the Iron Python option as this provides lots of neat ways to interact with C# programs.

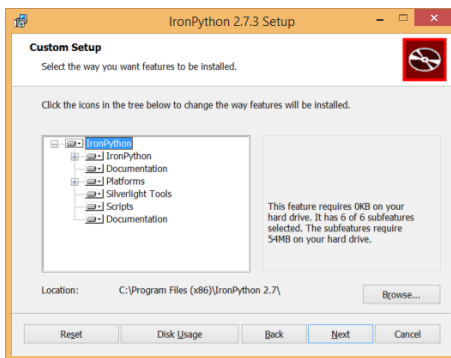
1. Go to this URL:

<https://ironpython.codeplex.com/downloads/get/423690>

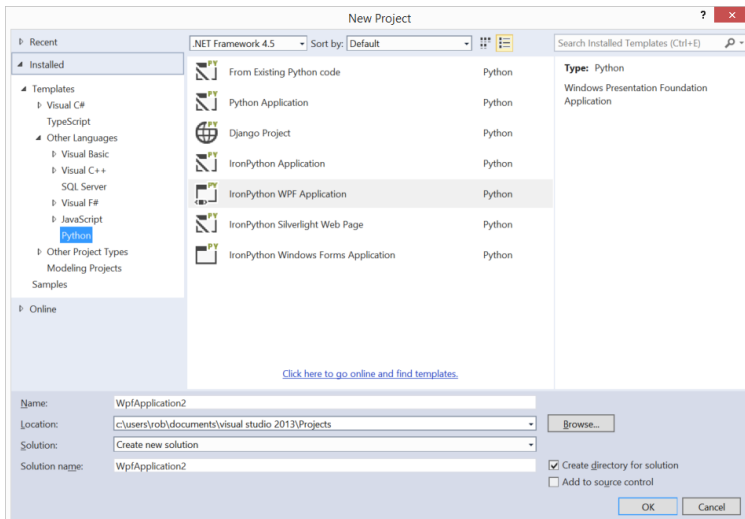
2. Allow the installer to run.



3. Click Next to move to the setup configuration.



4. I installed everything.



Once the installation has finished you should have a set of project types that you can use to create Python solutions.

Rob Miles January 2014