VisionPro PC Requirements

Your PC must meet the requirements listed in this section.

Minimum PC Requirements

- IBM or compatible Pentium PC with MMX/SSE2 instruction set
- (Optional) One open PCI slot for a Cognex frame grabber or direct connect camera adapter such as Firewire or GigE.
- (Optional) One open PCI Express slot for an MVS-8600e frame grabber, MVS-8500e frame grabber, GigE Vision network adapter, or FireWire adapter
- 512 MB RAM for Windows XP
  1 GB for Windows 7, Windows 8
  4 GB for Cognex DS1000 Series Sensors
- 1.5 GB free disk space prior to installation
- 1024 x 768 display with a display setting of 96 DPI
- PCI, PCI Express (recommended), or AGP video adapter
- Microsoft .NET 2.0 SP1 or .NET 4.0 Framework
  The VisionPro installation utility will install the Microsoft .NET 4.0 Framework if your development or deployment PC does not have it already installed.

Microsoft Visual Studio

For development of .NET applications (not required for deployment), you must have Visual Studio 2010 SP1, or Visual Studio 2012, Professional or Express for C#, VB.NET, or managed C++.

Operating Systems

Support for development and deployment on single or multi-processor machines using the following native languages: English, Japanese, German, Korean, and Simplified Chinese.

- XP Home and Professional; 32-bit SP3
- Windows 7 Premium, Professional and Ultimate 32-bit and 64-bit; SP1
- Windows 7 Standard Embedded 32-bit and 64-bit
- Windows 8 (32-bit and 64-bit)

Installing VisionPro

1. Uninstall any existing VisionPro software.
   - Use the Add or Remove Programs feature of the Windows Control Panel to remove any of the following programs if they are present:
     - Cognex VisionPro
     - Cognex Drivers
     - Cognex Japanese Documentation
     - Cognex Software Licensing Center
   - Restart your PC if prompted.

2. Turn off the PC and install the vision hardware necessary for your vision application.
   - For Cognex hardware, follow the installation instructions found in the hardware manuals supplied in the \Doc directory of your VisionPro installation media. For non-Cognex hardware, follow the manufacturer’s installation instructions.

3. Attach the necessary cameras, I/O devices and security dongle and turn on the PC.
   - Microsoft might display the Found New Hardware Wizard. Select Cancel.

4. Install the VisionPro software.
   - Windows 8 users: Install VisionPro from Windows Desktop.
   - Exit all applications and insert the VisionPro installation media.
   - The installation utility should start automatically. If it does not, double-click on the file setup.bat on the media.
   - You must have Administrator privileges to install VisionPro.
   - If your PC does not already have Microsoft Visual Studio Redistributables installed, they will automatically be installed.
   - If your PC requires an update to the Windows Installer, it will automatically be updated. Depending on how your system is configured, you might see a message about this update taking place.
   - If you installed a Measurement Computing Digital I/O PCI adapter or USB module, you must use the Optional Features of the Custom Setup to select the Measurement Computing...
5. (Optional) By default the installer launches a **VisionPro Controls Wizard** utility to populate the tool palette in Visual Studio with the latest set of VisionPro edit controls. The wizard detects which versions of Visual Studio you have installed and will populate the tool palette for all installed versions by default:

Be aware the utility does not support automated population of VisionPro edit controls with Visual Studio Express.

6. (Optional) Install the Japanese version of the documentation.

By default the VisionPro installation utility will not install Japanese versions of VisionPro documentation.

7. (Optional) By default the installer includes the Cognex Software Licensing Center utility, which allows you to use a software license file instead of using a Cognex frame grabber or a Cognex-supplied security dongle to provide license information.

8. Install the VisionPro Hardware and Security Dongle Drivers

You must install at least one driver to use the VisionPro software, unless you are using a software security key to provide license information.

The **Cognex Drivers** utility will launch once the VisionPro software is installed:

The **Cognex Drivers** utility will install the GigE Vision drivers, the driver for all supported security dongles, the Cognex FireWire DCAM driver and all the frame grabber drivers. You can, as an option, select **Custom** in the **Setup Type** dialog and pick the specific drivers you want installed. The drivers are Authenticode signed with a Cognex certificate.

The installer might display a Windows Security warning for the
Configure the Gigabit Ethernet Network Adapter

If you installed one or more GigE Vision network adapters, you must use the GigE Vision Configuration Tool to assign an IP address to each adapter port and each camera connected to it. Each port of a network adapter must have its own IP address on its own subnet. Each camera must have its own IP address on the same subnet as its network adapter, otherwise the camera and the adapter will not be able to communicate.

See the GigE Vision Cameras User’s Guide, available from the Start menu, for more information about configuring your PC to use GigE Vision cameras.

Working with Third-Party Imaging Devices

Manufacturers of cameras, frame grabbers, and other devices that generate digital images can make these images available to the VisionPro Imaging Device interface. Refer to the manufacturer’s web site for specific support information.

Configure Your Camera Link Cameras

If the cameras for your vision application use the Camera Link communication protocol, use the Cognex Camera Link Serial Comm Utility, or CogCLSerial, to program the Camera Link cameras over the Camera Link serial port.

Launch the CogCLSerial utility by choosing Start->Cognex->VisionPro->Utilities->CameraLink->CogCLSerial.

Acquire a Software License

If you are not using a Cognex frame grabber or a Cognex-supplied security dongle to provide license information to VisionPro, then you must acquire and install a software license file.

Cognex offers the option of software licensing through the use of an Activation ID, which you use to connect to the Cognex license server and enable licensed VisionPro features for any given PC.

Contact your Cognex sales representative or visit the web site www.cognex.com/support/VisionPro for more information. The topic Understanding VisionPro Security, available in the online VisionPro Documentation, provides detailed information on how
**Configure the Measurement Computing PCI adapter or USB module**

Do not install the Measurement Computing software development kit (SDK). This VisionPro release contains the programming interface necessary to communicate with the Measurement Computing discrete I/O hardware.

If you installed a Measurement Computing Digital I/O PCI bus adapter, the **Found New Hardware** wizard will appear. Use the wizard to install the driver automatically from the VisionPro software already installed. If you are using the USB module, the software is installed automatically.

Double-click on the **InstalCAL** application installed on the Windows desktop to complete the configuration, ensuring the PCI adapter or USB module is configured as Board #0, as shown:

Right-click on the board number and select **Change Board#** if necessary.

**Disable Power Saving Schemes**

Disable Windows 7 power saving schemes and any C-state settings in the BIOS that allow an idle processor to turn off unused components to save power.

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**VisionPro Overview**

VisionPro provides an interactive development environment that you can use to assemble tools, configure acquisition and I/O, and deploy robust, high-performance applications with full-featured operator interfaces. VisionPro also provides a full-featured toolkit that you can program in .NET using C#, VB.NET or managed C++.

**Application Development**

VisionPro consists of a set of development tools:

- **QuickBuild** is an interactive application builder that lets you define an application containing multiple Jobs. For each Job, you define and configure the image source (a Cognex frame grabber, GigE Vision camera, FireWire camera, imaging device for a 3rd party acquisition adapter, or an image file), then add the vision tools and the results analysis logic. You can run the Jobs interactively, using either manual, triggered, or automatic operation.

- Within QuickBuild, the **Communications Explorer** provides an interface to Cognex I/O hardware. You can link specific data items and results from an application to output lines or a TCP/IP connection to network hardware. You can configure system-level output such as a job-ready signal or a system heartbeat, and input signals to control when your vision application executes.

- Using the **Application Wizard** you can generate a complete operator interface that encapsulates the application you created using QuickBuild and the Communications Explorer. The Wizard-generated application includes an executable Windows program, fully commented source code, as well as the job and I/O configuration data. Depending on the options you specify, the application can also provide full configuration control over the job internals at run time.

The following figure provides an overview of a basic VisionPro development process:
Advanced Development Capabilities

In addition to using the Application Wizard to package your VisionPro application for deployment, you can also write a custom application around the configured Jobs, or you can create your entire application using C#, managed C++ or VB.NET directly with the underlying VisionPro components. The following are the three most common advanced development paths towards a customized, deployable application:

- Interactive development with QuickBuild plus a customized Application Wizard-Generated Operator Interface
  Because the Application Wizard generates a VB.NET or C# application, including source code, you can use Microsoft Visual Studio to view and modify the generated operator interface. This makes it easy to customize the look and feel of the application by adding controls and display values from other system components.

- Interactive Development plus a Custom-Written Operator Interface
  VisionPro’s .NET programming interface includes functions to load and operate a saved QuickBuild application (in fact, the Wizard-generated application uses these functions). Instead of using the Wizard-generated code, you can simply write your own Visual Studio application to load and control the saved QuickBuild application.

- Custom application using the VisionPro programming interface
  The .NET programming interface lets you create entire applications using C#, managed C++ or VB.NET, providing low-level control of image acquisition, and analysis.

The VisionPro online documentation provides an example of creating a deployable VB.NET application by loading a QuickBuild application and adding a custom graphical user interface.

Getting Started

Develop your Application with QuickBuild

QuickBuild is a rich interactive development environment that lets you create and manage multiple Jobs, each of which contains multiple tools and has the ability to run automatically whenever an image is available:

Configure the Communications Explorer

Once your job is working properly, use the Communications Explorer to configure the signals carried by your discrete I/O hardware and establish any TCP/IP links you need to exchange data with other network hardware:

Use the Application Wizard to Build a Deployable System

After saving your complete QuickBuild application, including all Jobs and communications information, launch the VisionPro Application Wizard and create a deployable operator interface:
Sample Jobs and Programs

VisionPro installs a large set of Visual Studio programming samples for a variety of tools. Each sample solves a specific vision task, and were created using C# or VB.NET.

The installation utility installs a set of programming samples, which are located by default in `Program Files\VisionPro\Samples\Programming`.

Likewise, QuickBuild includes a set of sample Jobs that demonstrate a variety of vision tasks, and can be accessed through the Navigation pane.

Reference
VisionPro Utilities

VisonPro includes the following utilities that are available through the Start menu:

- **3D Viewer**
  Use the 3D Viewer to view DS1000 series range images in 3D.

- **CogCLSerial**
  Use the CogCLSerial utility to program Camera Link cameras over the Camera Link serial port.

- **CITDCAM and DCAM Doctor**
  Use the CIT DCAM utility to create and modify Camera Configuration Files (CCFs) for IEEE-1394 DCAM compliant cameras.
  Use the DCAM Doctor to view detailed information about the IEEE-1394 DCAM cameras attached to your PC and to help solve any issues you are having with image acquisition.
  For 32-bit operating systems only.

- **GigE Vision Configuration Tool**
  Use the GigE Configuration tool to set the IP addresses for your GigE network adapters and GigE Vision cameras.

- **IDB Editor**
  Use the Cognex IDB Editor to create and modify images in an image database file.

- **Image and Mask Editor**
  Use the Image Mask Editor to add a masking pattern to the training image of a CNLSearch or PMAlign tool.

- **Image Font Extractor**
  Use the Image Font Extractor to create an image font file from an existing image.

- **Image Grading Utility**
  Use the Image Grading Utility to create a library of records for a set of existing images, assigning them grades of Accept, Reject or Unknown based on the features they exhibit.

- **InstaCal**
  Use InstaCal to configure your Measurement Computing I/O.
hardware as described previously in this document.

- VisionPro Controls Wizard
  
The VisionPro Controls Wizard populates the tool palette in Visual Studio with the latest set of VisionPro edit controls. The wizard detects which versions of Visual Studio you have installed and populates the tool palette for all installed versions by default.