

How to Build VStar Windows Installer

Windows installer is created from the vstar-win.zip package.

The installer is built using Inno Setup <https://jrsoftware.org/isinfo.php> (currently, Inno Setup 6 is used). So a user must install it before creating the setup.

To prepare it one should:

- 1) Build Windows VStar package vstar-win.zip:

```
>ant win
```

- 2) Build the installer itself:

```
>ant -f build-win-installer.xml
```

Before the next release, a proper VStar version should be specified in the build-win-installer.xml, see line `<property name="app_version" value ="2.2x.y"/>`

What the installer does:

- 1) It checks if Java exists (trying to run javaw.exe). If failed, it prompts the user to download and install JRE. This does not prevent installing the VStar itself.
- 2) It creates desktop and start menu shortcuts to VStar.exe. The VStar.exe is a new Vstar launcher, see below.
- 3) It sets Java startup options (maximum heap size) in VStar.ini (launcher configuration) and generates an alternative launcher: VStar.bat with the same startup options. Currently, -Xmx parameter (maximum heap size) is set to a half of physical memory available.

New VStar launcher VStar.exe

The launcher (VStar.exe) invokes javaw.exe instead of java.exe to suppress the console window. A configuration file VStar.ini can be used to specify additional javaw.exe startup parameters (currently, only memory-related options are used). A shortcut to VStar.ini is created in the Windows Start menu in VStar group by the installer.

Windows-specific javaw.exe does not show startup errors (for example, invalid -X specifications) and dies silently. It is recommended to use VStar.bat to test non-standard options. If VStar.exe does not run, a user should open VStar.ini and modify or comment out 'Parameters' item. In the critical case, a user can simply delete VStar.ini, in this case no additional parameters will be passed.

See the launcher source code in VStar\install-files\vstar-launcher-windows\src\