

How much time and money does Visual Assist save?

By Tristan Soliven September 2, 2022



Visual Assist is one of the most powerful and intelligent coding assistance solutions for Visual Studio C/C++, but how much time (or money) do development teams save with such a lightweight add-on?

In this blog post, we try to guesstimate the *value* of Visual Assist as a productivity and time-saving tool.

Why do developers need Visual Assist?

Before we dive into the numbers, we first need to understand why having Visual Assist is needed in the first place.

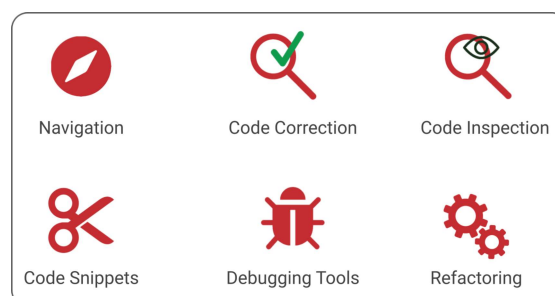
Technically speaking, VA is not *necessary* to code in Visual Studio. However, some [developers can attest](#) that there are projects that are almost infeasible to do without tools like VA.

For instance, those working with large C++ source code may find that the IDE's built-in features can [choke on resource-intensive processes](#). In this case, users will greatly benefit from VA's highly performant and context-aware features that have been specifically designed to support the areas where Visual Studio needs it.

Now let's do some simple calculations with some hypothetical scenarios. You will soon find out that the **opportunity cost** in having Visual Assist is so low and the **return on investment** so high that there is simply no reason to ever code without it again.


Visual Assist for Developers

For developers, the benefit of having a performant and light coding assistant is pretty easy to understand. With VA installed, coding is simply faster and easier. With a slew of features designed to support even the highly complex C++ language, developers can focus on more important tasks.



The amount a developer spends wouldn't define the usefulness of VA. A better metric to look at would be **how productive it makes you or how much time it saves.**

In one of [Visual Assist's reviews](#), a game developer describes VA as “absolutely needed for professional programming in Visual Studio.” He explains how the features provided are *basic*—so much so that he was surprised that Visual Studio shipped without it in the first place.



Ryan V.
Game Director
Small-Business (50 or fewer emp.)

Validated Reviewer ✓

Verified Current User ✓

Review source: Seller invite

Incentivized Review

★★★★★ Jun 14, 2022

"Visual Assist is absolutely essential."

What do you like best about VISUAL ASSIST?

Visual Assist is absolutely needed for professional programming in Visual Studio. The things it does seem so obvious and trivial - things like quickly finding any file in the solution, quickly finding any symbol, intelligently renaming symbols, etc. And yet, somehow, these seemingly very basic things just aren't supported in Visual Studio. The time saved through the use of these very basic things is quite incalculable to the point where there's just no reason for anyone to ever use Visual Studio without Visual Assist. I can't understand why Microsoft didn't buy Visual Assist and incorporate it into Visual Studio 15 years ago. But until such time, if you use Visual Studio you need to use Visual Assist. That's all there is to it. Otherwise, you're wasting a ton of time and crippling your productivity.

A VA user testimonial. [Read more reviews on G2.com](#)

Disclosure: Ryan has since been recognized as a [Whole Tomato MVP](#), but this review was submitted prior.

The value of Visual Assist for developers is that it makes development work faster and easier. It's like investing in a good quality mouse—the regular one will do the job just too, but the added macros, extra buttons, and smoother experience in a *premium* mouse just feels better and more productive. You get the same results, just faster and with fewer inputs.

Visual Assist for Teams and Businesses

Project managers and developer leads are in a perpetual search of ways to make the most out of eight hours. These are the people whose decisions influence others, so they are usually more results-driven.

An analysis of our user surveys and focus group responses show that VA can **increase productivity by around 20%**. This means that having Visual Assist effectively reduces a 40-hour work effort to about 32 hours.

Here is an estimated-cost-savings matrix of an average project with and without Visual Assist:

	Average rate for developers	Annual license cost (Visual Studio Professional with and without VA)		Project Turnaround Time	Investment		Total Savings	
					Calculation	Total Investment	Time	Cost Savings
Visual Studio	\$45 per hour	\$540		240 Hours	$\$540 + (\$45 \cdot 240\text{hrs})$	\$11,340	0 hours	\$0
Visual Studio + Visual Assist	\$45 per hour	\$540	\$279	192 Hours	$\$819 + (\$45 \cdot 192\text{hrs})$	\$9,459	48 hours	\$1,881

Visual Assist can save teams 48-hours and \$1,900 for a project that normally takes 10 work days.

VA helps maintain code by analyzing projects for technical errors and code smells. It catches issues as teams are writing code, saving them time during the testing and integration phase.

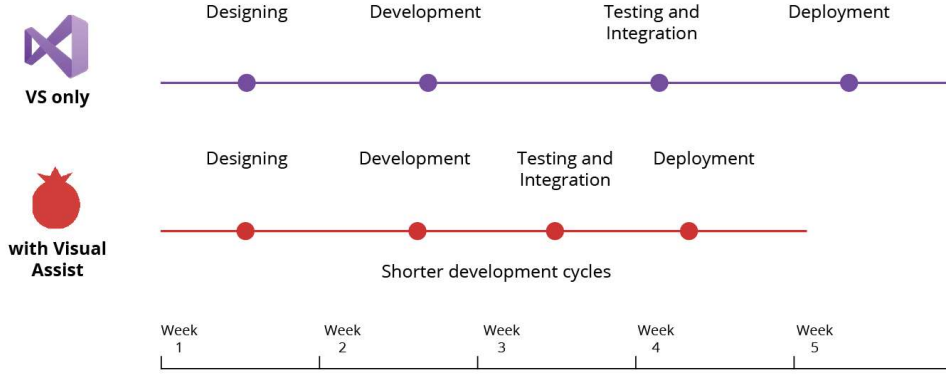
And since VA is [regularly updated](#), the automatic prompts and corrections it suggests are always based on the latest coding and linter standards. Overall, it makes maintaining and testing code less tedious and time consuming.

These suggestions, no matter how minuscule, add up and save teams and businesses valuable time. They don't have to spend extended periods of time manually checking code—meaning they can skip a considerable chunk of the development process.

Here are a couple of VA's time saving features:

- [Refactoring](#)
- [Code inspections](#)
- [Code debugging help](#)
- [And more...](#)

It's a bit complicated to estimate how efficient code maintenance practices and tools translate into time savings, but think of it this way: for each project, **how much time does your team spend on finding, fixing, and testing errors, both minor and major,?**



Easily deploy Visual Assist

VA is a VS plugin and can be easily deployed. It does not matter if you install it before or during a project. Deploying with Visual Studio is a no-frills process with no additional investment for hardware required.

It has no known compatibility issues, so it should work with any other plugin you may have installed. Its features are customizable, so you can choose which functions to use and which to disable.

[Get started](#) with Visual Assist and experience a better and faster Visual Studio today.

PRODUCTIVITY	TIME SAVINGS	VISUAL ASSIST FOR VISUAL STUDIO
		0 7998

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