



NI ACADEMIC INSTALL GUIDE



Academic Installation Guide

This guide is designed to make getting up and running with your NI software quick and easy.

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Choosing Which Installer to Use

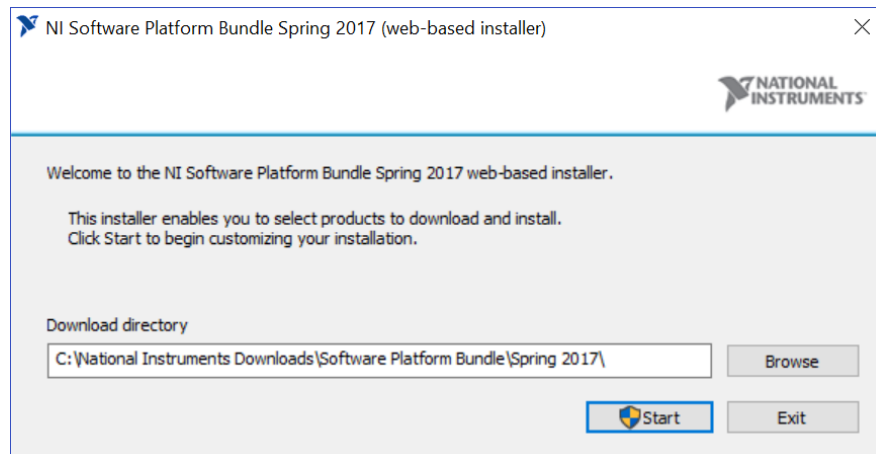
The website at ni.com/academic/download hosts several different installers for NI software, from which you can select based on your requirements. You can choose between three installer options:

- The NI Software Platform Bundle contains most of the NI Software Portfolio and allows you to select the exact software items you wish to download and install. This is the installer we recommend using if you have purchased the LabVIEW Academic Site License. This document contains guidance on which software items you should choose for common scenarios. To use this installer, follow the steps beginning on page 2.
- The Circuit Design Suite Education Edition installer includes Multisim™ and Ultiboard™ software, which are both included in the Multisim™ Academic Site License.
- The Specific NI Software Installers contain only the subset of NI software needed to support a particular focus area (i.e. using a specific hardware product or specific OS), thus simplifying the options presented to users.

Each installer has a choice of different versions by year or by release, so you can use the exact same software on your own computer that you run in your lab class, research lab, or department library. Running the same version of software helps prevent incompatibilities between code transferred among different computers.

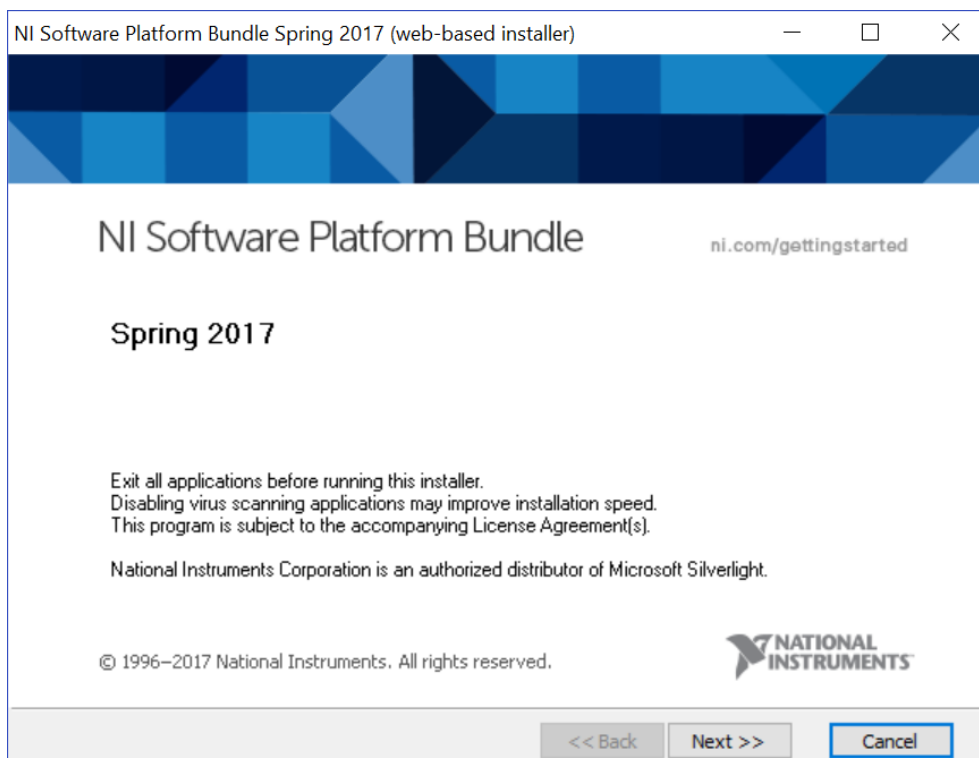
Running the Installer

Once you have downloaded one of the installers, navigate to the file in Windows Explorer, right-click, and select “Run as Administrator.” You then see this window:

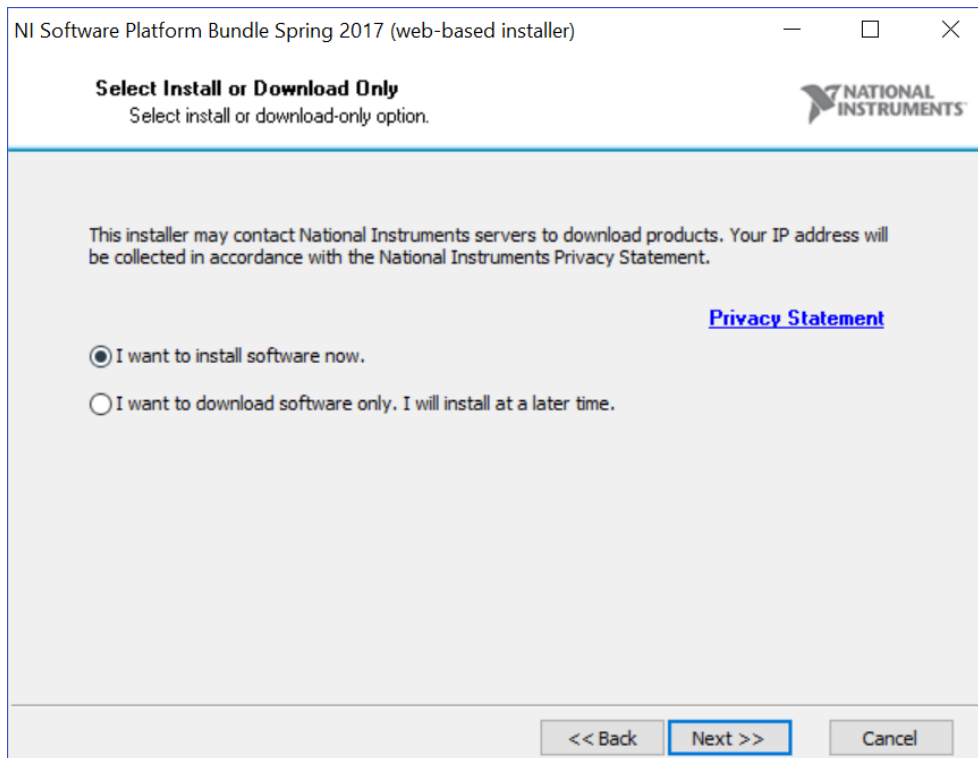


Press “Start.”

You may receive a Windows security warning after pressing “Start” that asks if you would like this application to make changes to your computer. Ensure that the warning detects “Verified publisher: National Instruments Corporation.” Say “Yes” or “Allow.”

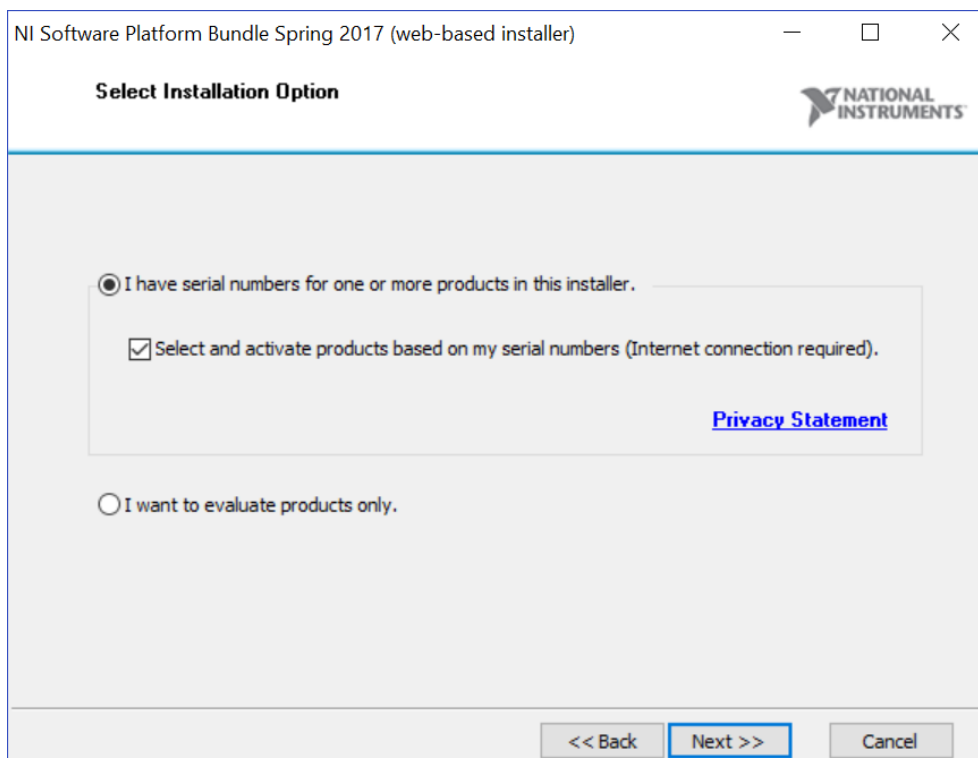


Save and close any open files, exit other applications, and select “Next.”



Selecting “I want to install software now” downloads and installs the software you choose in later steps. Selecting “I want to download software only” downloads only the installation files so that you can install later. Choose which one is best for you and select “Next.”

IT Admins: The “I want to download software only” option is useful if you want to create your own installation media. Active subscriptions to any Teaching Academic Site License receive a physical shipment of installation media once per year immediately after the NIWeek conference. If you want to order extra installation media, contact NI at ni.com/contact-us.



The “I have serial numbers...” option shows only the software products you can activate using those serial numbers (also known as activation keys). The “I want to evaluate...” option shows the full list of NI software, but be aware

that you may download software you cannot later activate with your license. For a list of the software activated by NI academic site licenses, [view this white paper](#).

Choose the best option for you and select “Next.”

The screenshot shows a window titled "NI Software Platform Bundle Spring 2017 (web-based installer)". The window has a header bar with the title and standard window controls. Below the header, the title "Enter Serial Numbers" is displayed in bold. To the right of the title is the National Instruments logo. The main content area features a text input field with a cursor, followed by a button labeled "Add Serial Number". Below this, a message states: "You can use the following previously installed serial numbers with the products in this installer." This message is followed by a table with two columns: "Serial Numbers" and "Product Names". The table has eight rows, all of which are empty. Below the table is a button labeled "Remove Serial Numbers". At the bottom of the window, there are three buttons: "<< Back", "Next >>", and "Cancel".

Serial Numbers	Product Names

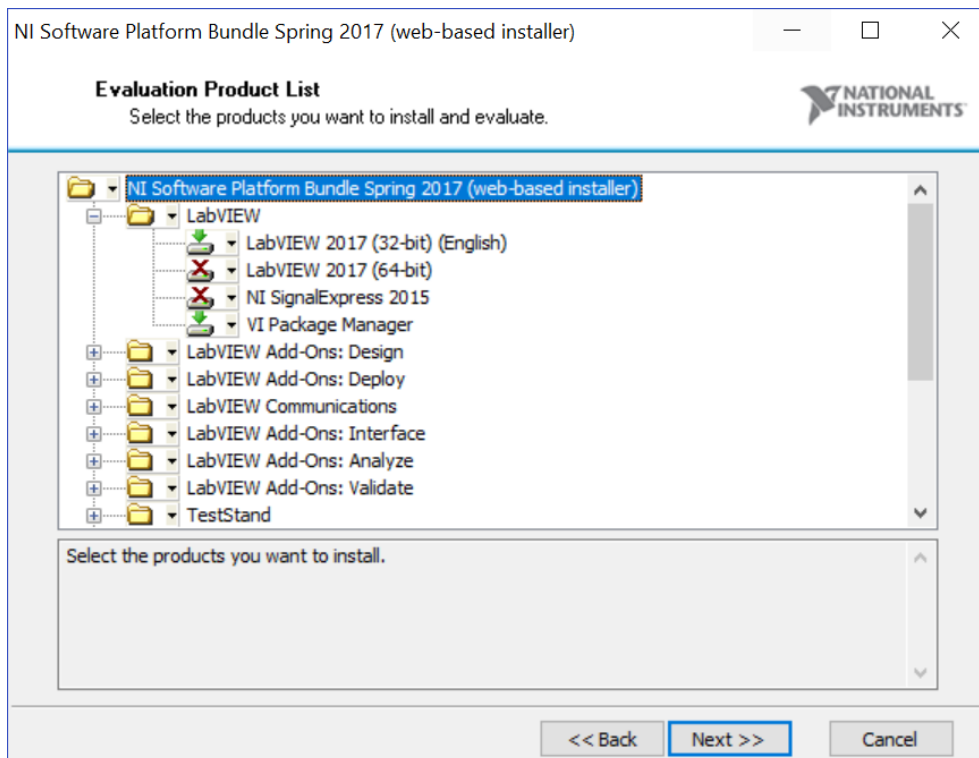
If you chose to activate by serial number in the previous step, enter the serial number(s) and select “Add Serial Number” and then “Next.”

IT Admins: The University chose between two options to activate software when they purchased an Academic Site License: a serial number or a license file. If you have the serial number, you can enter it here. If you are using a license file on a license server, then press “Back” and choose “Evaluate Products Only” from the previous page of the installer.

Students: If you purchased your own copy of LabVIEW, enter the serial number here. The serial number may be printed on the packaging of the LabVIEW CD/DVD or sent in an email by the company that sold you LabVIEW. If you are using the Student Install (part of a university’s Academic Site License) to get free access, you need to retrieve the Student Install serial number from your IT administrator. This is different from the main campus serial number. Each year, you will need to get the new Student Install serial number from your IT admin.

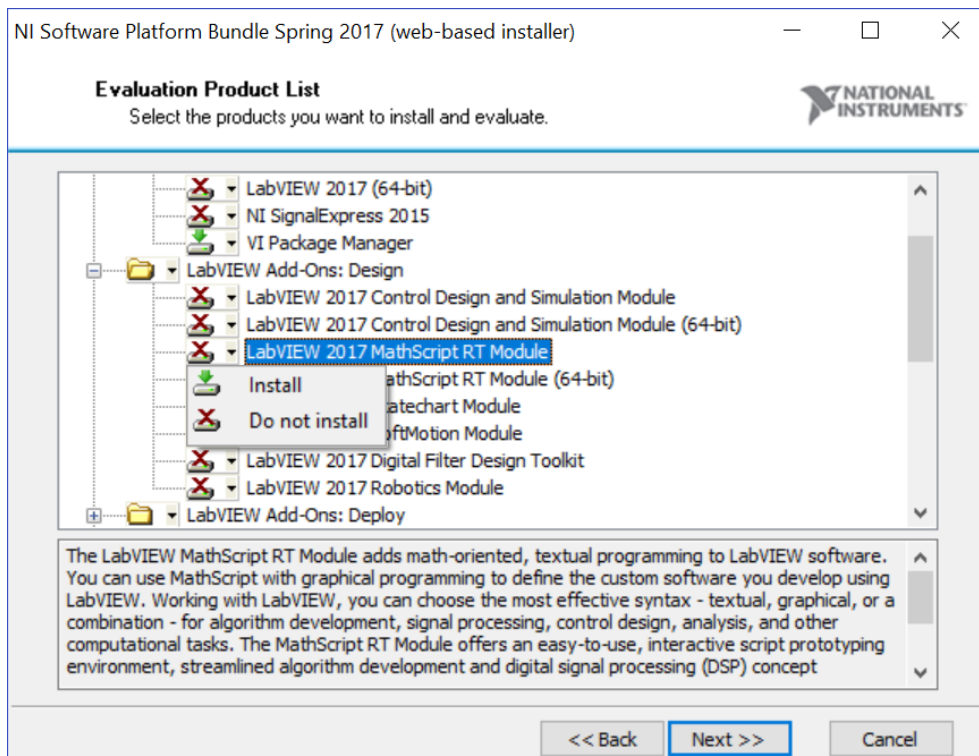
Choosing Which Software to Download and Install

In this step, choose the software you want to download and install. You should see a software list like the one below with a few default options already selected.



The installer uses a tree hierarchy to organize different software items into folders. You can use the + and – symbols to expand sections of the tree.

To select a software item for download and installation, click the icon to the left of the software item’s name. You can then choose to “Install” or “Do not install” from the drop-down menu that appears. You can perform the same operation on an entire folder of software items by clicking on the folder icon.



Which Software Should I Select?

Choosing the right software to install can be confusing if you are not sure what you need. You can download and install everything, but that may lead to a very large download. This section of the guide recommends the minimum software items you should install for certain scenarios and explains how to find these items in the different folders on the tree.

Installing more software items means your LabVIEW software contains more features, tools, APIs, code blocks, examples, and help documentation to use in your projects.

Choosing Software Based on Your Hardware

Software Name	Containing Folder	Control of Third-Party (non-NI) Instruments	Ability to Take Simple Measurements from NI DAQ Devices	NI myRIO	NI myDAQ	NI ELVIS II/II+	NI USRP
LabVIEW (32-bit)	LabVIEW	x	x	x	x	x	
VI Package Manager	LabVIEW	x	x	x	x	x	
LabVIEW Real-Time Module	LabVIEW Add-Ons: Deploy			x			
LabVIEW FPGA Module	LabVIEW Add-Ons: Deploy			x			
Xilinx Compilation Tools - ISE	LabVIEW Add-Ons: Deploy			x			
Xilinx Compilation Tools - Vivado	LabVIEW Add-Ons: Deploy			x			
NI-488.2	Device Drivers	x					
NI-Serial	Device Drivers	x					
NI-VISA	Device Drivers	x					
NI-DAQmx	Device Drivers		x				
NI-ELVISmx*	Device Drivers				x	x	
LabVIEW myRIO Toolkit	LabVIEW Add-Ons: Deploy			x			
LabVIEW Communications (Entire Folder)	LabVIEW Communications						x

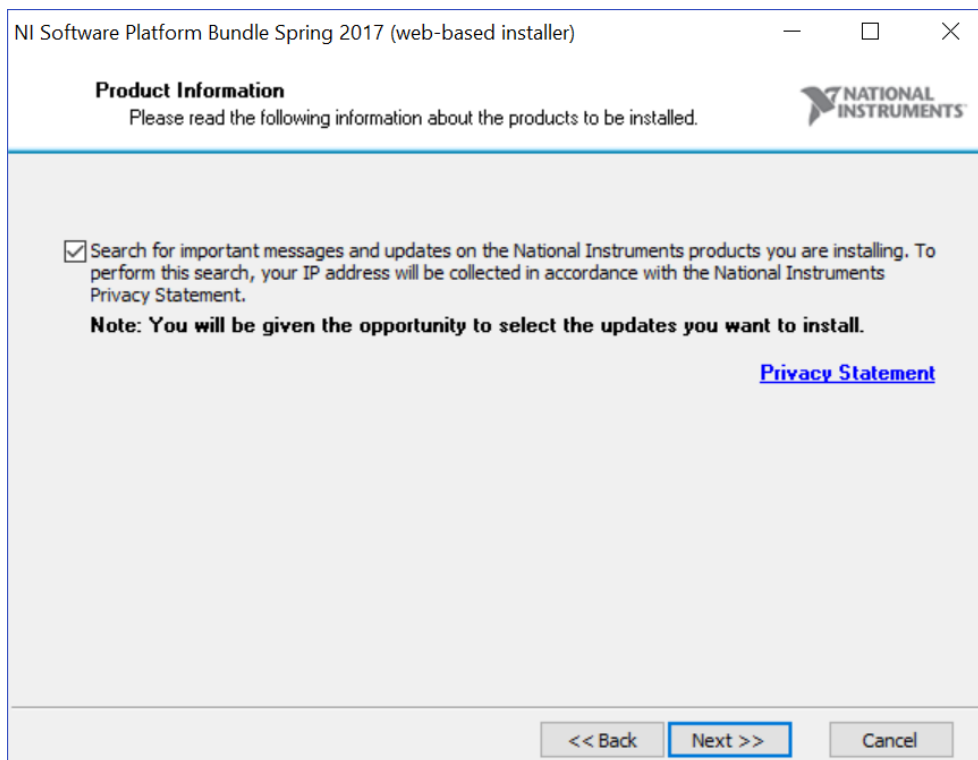
*NI-ELVISmx is for the myDAQ and NI ELVIS II/II+ only. For use with the [NI ELVIS III](#), install the NI ELVIS III Software Bundle under Specific NI Software Installers.

Choosing Software Based on Your Engineering Topic

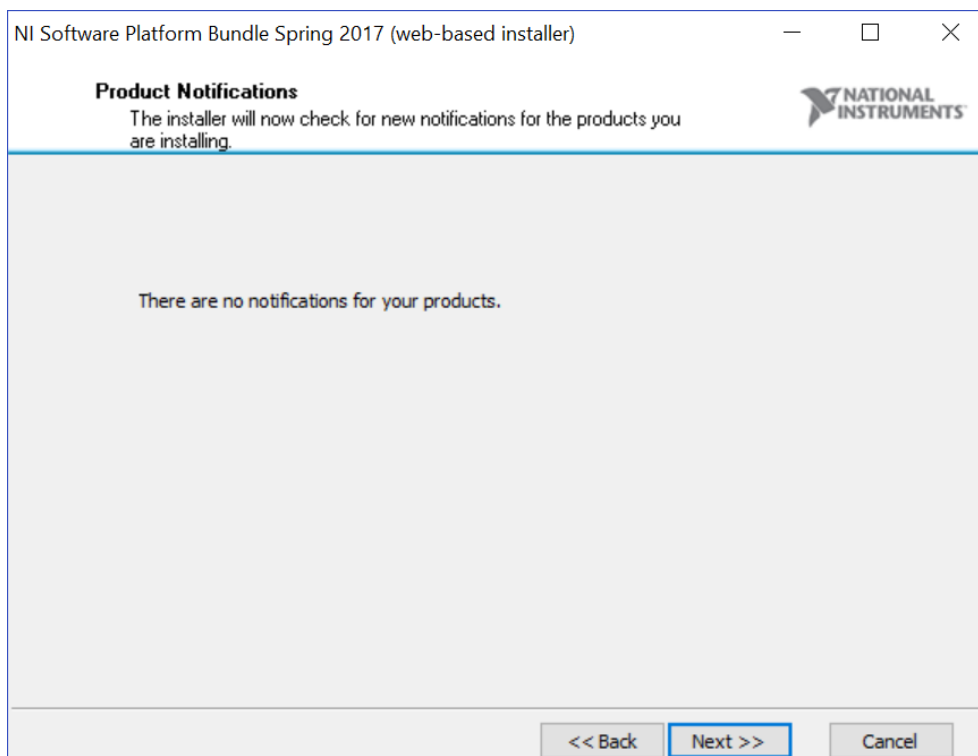
Software Name	Containing Folder	Intro to Engineering	Circuits	Robotics or Mechatronics	Communications, 5G, SDR	Power Electronics
LabVIEW (32-bit)	LabVIEW	x	Optional	x		x
VI Package Manager	LabVIEW	x	Optional	x		x
LabVIEW Real-Time Module	LabVIEW Add-Ons: Deploy			x		
LabVIEW FPGA Module	LabVIEW Add-Ons: Deploy			x		
Xilinx Compilation Tools - ISE	LabVIEW Add-Ons: Deploy			x		
Xilinx Compilation Tools - Vivado	LabVIEW Add-Ons: Deploy			x		
Vision Development Module	LabVIEW Add-Ons: Interface			x		
LabVIEW Electrical Power Toolkit	LabVIEW Add-Ons: Analyze					x
NI-488.2	Device Drivers					
NI-Serial	Device Drivers					
NI-VISA	Device Drivers					
NI-ELVISmx*	Device Drivers	x	x			x
LabVIEW Communications (Entire Folder)	LabVIEW Communications				x	

*NI-ELVISmx is for the myDAQ and NI ELVIS II/II+ only. For use with the [NI ELVIS III](#), install the NI ELVIS III Software Bundle under Specific NI Software Installers.

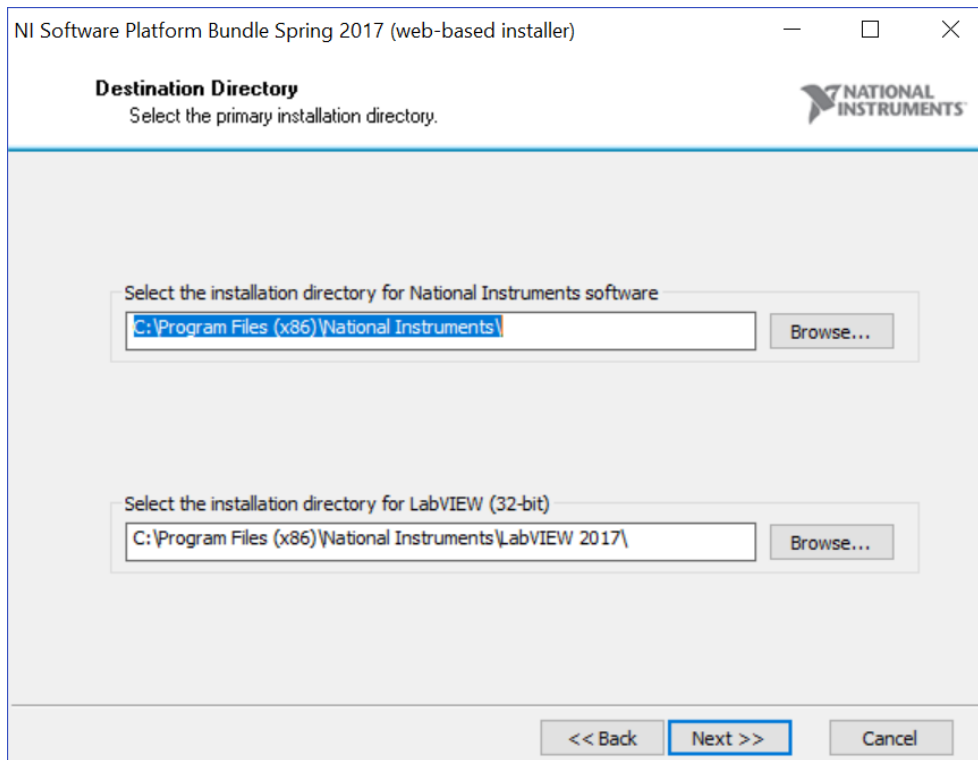
Starting the Download



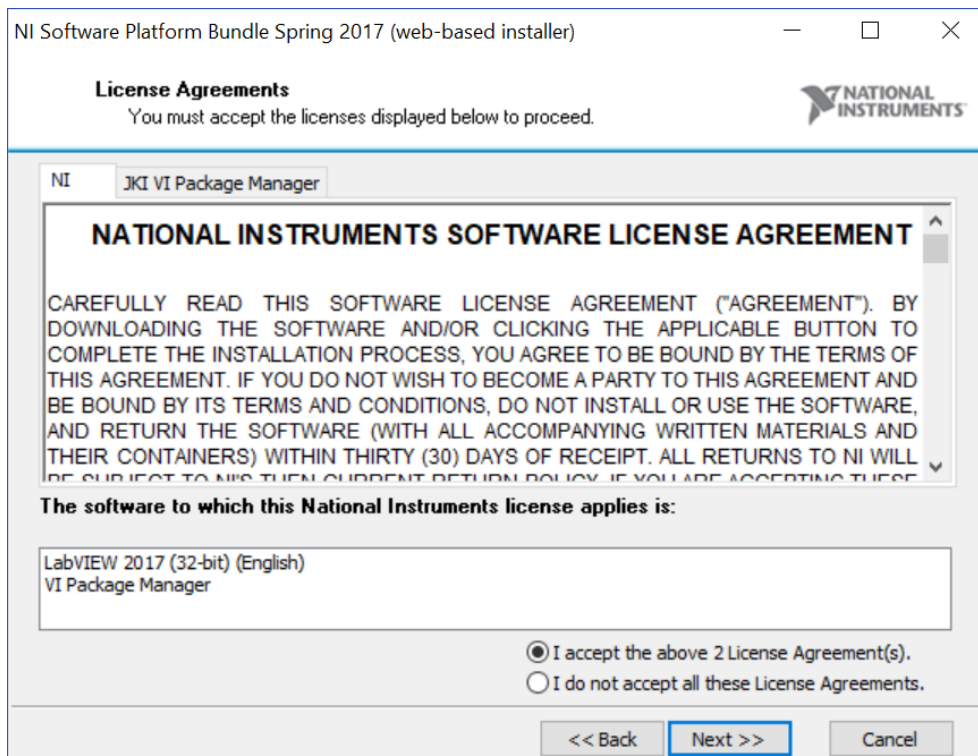
Check for any important messages or updates to the software you have chosen before installing. This step requires an active Internet connection. Select "Next."



If the software you chose has no notifications, select "Next." If warnings appear, follow the on-screen advice.



Choose the destination folder for your software. If you are unfamiliar with this step, use the default directories that appear automatically. Select “Next.”



Agree to the licenses for the software you have chosen. Review the agreements, select “I accept,” and click “Next.”

NI Software Platform Bundle Spring 2017 (web-based installer)

Disable Windows Fast Startup
Disable Windows fast startup to prevent problems with installing or removing hardware.

The fast startup capability introduced in Microsoft Windows 8 may cause problems with installing or removing hardware. National Instruments recommends disabling Windows fast startup. For more information about fast startup, click the following link or visit ni.com/info and enter the Info Code WinFastStartup.

[Windows Fast Startup Information](#)

☒ Disable Windows fast startup to prevent problems with installing or removing hardware.

<< Back Next >> Cancel

You can choose to disable Windows Fast Startup, which can cause hardware connection issues on tablet and laptop computers. Select “Next.”

NI Software Platform Bundle Spring 2017 (web-based installer)

Activate Your Products
Complete the following information.

An NI User Account is required to activate our product. This enables NI to better deliver benefits associated with software maintenance and support programs.

☒ Log in to your NI User Account

Email

Password

[Forgot your password?](#)

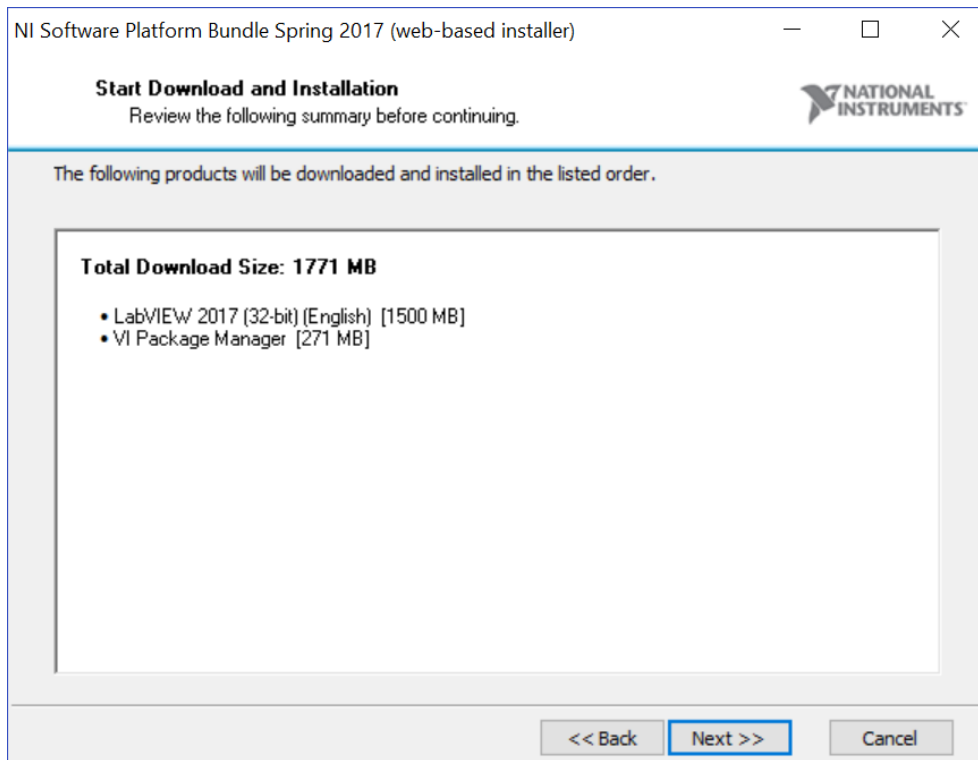
[Create a new Account](#)

☐ I am not the end user. Defer activation until product launch or invocation of NI License Manager.

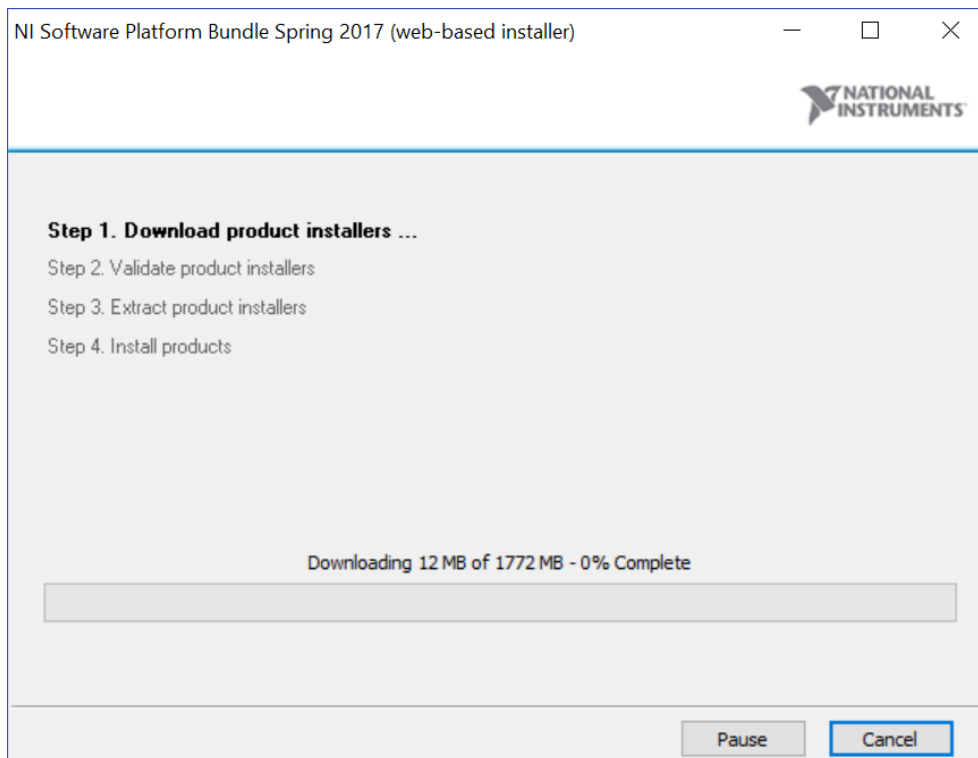
<< Back Next >> Cancel

If you are installing for the first time, select “Create a new Account.” This requires an Internet connection. Use your university/school email address to create an account on ni.com. Afterward, or if you already have an account, enter your login credentials here.

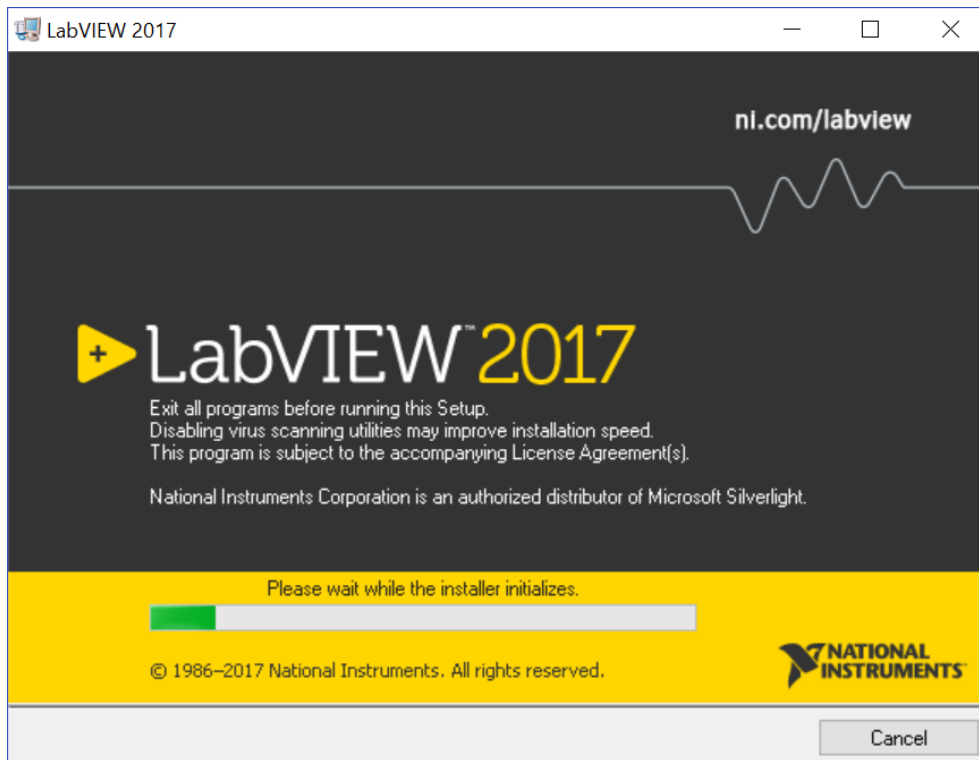
IT Admins: If you are installing on behalf of a staff member, select “I am not the end user.” When end users start the software for the first time, they are prompted to create their own accounts. Creating accounts, especially when using university email addresses, significantly streamlines the process of getting technical support for your NI software and licenses.



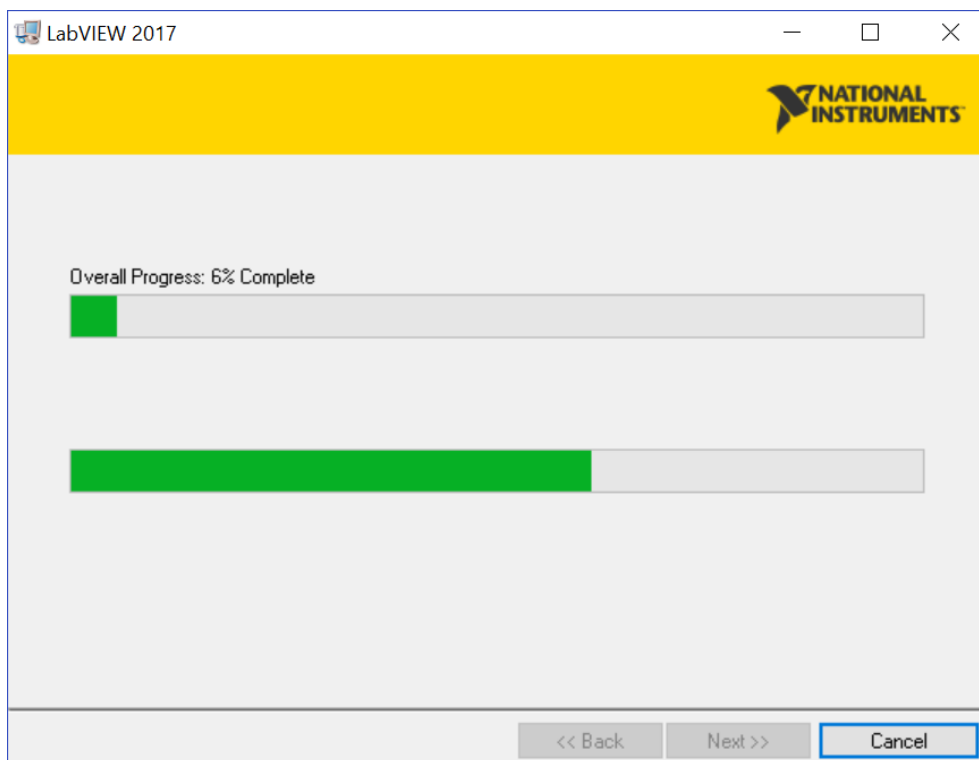
Review the download size for the software you have chosen. You can pause the download at any time if you need to continue it later.



If you selected to install software you will automatically progress to the software installation. Do not let your computer sleep, hibernate, shut down, or interfere with the installation stage.



A new window opens during the installation stage. Do not close any of the download or installation windows. They close automatically when finished.



You may see this type of window once for each software item you chose. After all the software items have finished installing the installer generates an installation report which you can review before selecting "Next" or "Finish."

Adding More Software Later

You can add more NI software to a computer later. Simply relaunch the installer file and select new software items to download and install. Visit ni.com/academic/download to download the most recent version of the installer.

Multiple Versions of LabVIEW on the Same Computer

NI introduces new versions of LabVIEW in major and minor releases. Major release examples are LabVIEW 2016 and LabVIEW 2017. A minor release example is a service pack denoted as LabVIEW 2017 SP1.

Major releases work side by side on the same computer, so you can have LabVIEW 2016 and LabVIEW 2017 installed and working at the same time if you need. However, you should always use the same version of LabVIEW across all your work (homework, laboratory class, research lab computer, colleagues' computers) to avoid incompatibilities when transferring code from one computer to the next. If you do receive code that does not open in your version of LabVIEW because the code has been made on a newer version, you need to ask the author to use the "Save for Previous Version" feature and send you the new files.

Installing a minor release (SP1 or patch) upgrades any existing software on the PC. Incompatibilities with code do not normally occur between an SP1 version of software and a non-SP1 version.

Where to Go Next

Learn How to Use NI Software

Need to quickly get familiar with the fundamentals of LabVIEW? [LabVIEW 101](#) is a collection of short videos that guide a student through an introduction to LabVIEW.

Want a more formal training structure? [Take the official NI education courses online](#). All users of an active Academic Site License have access to self-paced online training courses. Talk to your IT admins to see if they have set up email-domain level access for your institution.

Instructor-led courses are available for in-person and online learning. Academic customers can take these multiday courses at a huge discount. [Contact NI to learn the closest course location](#).

Get Support

Staff members at academic institutions are encouraged to contact NI by phone and email to get answers to their NI software and hardware questions. [Begin a service request online using your serial number](#).

For students, the [NI community](#) provides a great place to exchange ideas and collaborate on challenges.

Server-Based Licensing for IT Admins

You may now be ready to start setting up your license server, or you may need to connect that server to the computers on which you have installed NI software. NI Volume License Manager (VLM) is powerful server-based licensing software that is included with an Academic Site License.

To learn how VLM software can help you, check out "Getting Started with NI VLM" under [Academic Site License Administrator Resources](#).