

APG vNext Version 4.1

APG vNext has been rewritten from the ground up to utilize **ASP.NET 4.0 / 4.5**.

In addition to the framework changes, we have many exciting new features and enhancements over the old version. You can see the list of new features over the previous version here:

- [☑ What's New & Unique about APG vNext \(Version 4\)?](#)

If you are upgrading from the beta, please download the upgrade package from the [APG vNext private download forum](#). It contains only the files that are changed which makes upgrading a lot easier to do.

This particular document you are reading right now is intended to provide full installation instructions (new installation) as well as essential info on server requirements.

TABLE OF CONTENT

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS FOR VERSION 4 (VNEXT)	3
Web Server	3
Database Server.....	4
CONTENT IN THIS PACKAGE	5
FULL INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS	6
Pre-installation Configuration	6
Upload the software to your server	8
Run the Web-based Setup program.....	9
! VERY IMPORTANT !.....	10
ADDITIONAL TIPS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	11
Server Checker.....	11
Customization	11
Language Files.....	12
Improve Server Performance for IIS 6 / IIS 7 Classic Pipeline	13
FURTHER READINGS.....	14

System Requirements for Version 4 (vNext)

Web Server

- Web Server: Windows 2003, 2008, 2012;
 - IIS Version: IIS 6, 7, 8;
- ASP.NET Version: 4.0, 4.5;
 - ASP.NET Session NOT required;
 - ASP.NET ViewState required;
- A folder marked as application on your server (a standard ASP.NET requirement);
- Both Medium and Full Trust environments are supported;
- Application Pool on IIS 7+ can be either Classic or Integrated Pipeline;

Database Server

- SQL Server Version: 2005, 2008, 2012;
 - Minimum Edition: SQL Express w/ Advanced Services (for Full-Text Search)
 - SQL Express Edition **without** Advanced Services is **not** supported.
- An empty database required;
- Full-Text Index enabled on server (default);
- Installation requires the user to be either a db_owner or db_ddladmin (database role);
- Forum operation (post installation) requires at least db_datareader and db_datawriter (database role);

Content in this package

- **/vNext:** The Web portion and the Setup program for the software;
- **Providers.zip:** The JSON Membership & Role Providers
- **Full_Install_Readme.pdf:** This document; and,
- **EULA.pdf:** End User License Agreement.

Full Installation Instructions

Installation is a simple 3-step process:

1. Pre-installation Configuration
2. Upload the Software to Your Server
3. Run the Setup Program

Pre-installation Configuration

Once the zip package is downloaded, extract it onto your disk. You should find the software inside the **vNext** folder.

Using Visual Studio (2010 or 2012), open the vNext folder as a "**Website**."

~/web.config

1. You'll notice both the **appSettings** and **connectionStrings** sections are located in their respective files (under the ~/config folder).
2. Scroll down and you'll see various comments throughout the file. The first thing you should do is to **get your machinekey installed**:
 - a. Go to <http://www.aspplayground.net/machinekey.aspx> to get your machine key

(if you already have a machine key you intend to use, then please your own e.g. your website's machine key)

- b. Put the key under the machinekey comment I have in web.config
3. If you are on **IIS 6**:
 - a. Scroll down to the **customErrors** section, and change the **redirectMode** value according to my comment there.

[~/config/sqlconnections.config](#)

Here you'll put your database connection string in for "**ForumSoftwareConnection**". To complete installation, your user must be in either the **db_owner** or **db_ddladmin** role.

[~/config/appSettings.config](#)

Here you'll notice that the *OrderRefNumber* is set to **1234567**. You don't have to change this to your actual order ID, if you plan to test this beta for a **short duration** on your **local machine**. At the end of the setup you'll receive a 30 day trial with this test order ID automatically.

If you wish to activate the license with your own order ID, simply replace the *OrderRefNumber* with your own (can be found in the order notification email from ShareIt). You can deactivate this beta to free up the license for your production server later on.

Testing the software on a remote machine (your shared hosting account, e.g.) with a **trial license is not recommended**. You will experience intermittent page delays if you do so. Trial license is designed to be used locally, i.e., on your own development machine.

Upload the software to your server

Upload the content inside the **vNext** folder (not the folder itself)

- via FTP to the designated folder on your server;
- copy and paste locally to the folder on your dev machine

Just make sure the folder you upload the software to is configured as an

Application. [See this thread for more details.](#)

If you are on **IIS 6**, [visit this thread for the configurations needed](#) to run the software.

Run the Web-based Setup program

If you'd like to perform a test upgrade on a backup v3 db (i.e. not an in-place upgrade), you need to [modify the backup db first](#) before proceeding to the next step.

Using your browser, visit the forum (e.g. <http://localhost/forum/>), and you will be redirected to the setup wizard.

Go through the steps to complete the installation procedure. You'll activate the software at the end of the setup wizard.

! VERY IMPORTANT !

Don't forget to delete the setup folder from your server after the upgrade is completed, otherwise anyone can access your setup folder and erase your entire forum db.

It is advisable to make the setup folder password protected using Windows authentication (set this up with IIS or your host's control panel) if you decide to keep it on your server (not recommended at all).

Additional Tips and Recommendations

Server Checker

Once you are logged in as the System Admin (memberID = 0, the account you created during setup), you can go to the **AdminCP -> System Related Options -> Server Checker** to run a series of tests to ensure your server environment is set up correctly and secure.

If some tests fail, the checker will show you the solutions and please make sure you correct them before continuing.

Customization

The following are the instructions for customizing vNext

1. [Theme Customization \(Skin, CSS in Less & Images\)](#)
2. [Template Customization \(Master Pages, User Controls & Theme Specific JavaScript\)](#)

The bundled theme in vNext is named **Elegant**.

Language Files

The language file you want to edit is `~/App_GlobalResources/In.resx`. For international languages, you need to add `~/App_GlobalResources/In.xxx.resx`, where xxx is the cultural code for your international language (e.g. da for Danish).

Then, you register the language files inside `~/config/appSettings.config`. The name of the key is **LanguageSetting**.

For example, this is how to add a Danish language file on top of the default English file: `"en:English;da:Danish"`

If you wish to compile the software before deployment, you need to copy all In.resx & In.xxx.resx files into a folder named `~/lang`. You'll have to add this `~/lang` folder yourself after compilation.

This is necessary because during compilation Visual studio removes the entire `~/App_GlobalResources` folder. We need a copy of the language files in `~/lang` so that we can extract language data to feed client-side JavaScript functions.

Don't worry about this if you don't plan to compile your software before deployment.

Improve Server Performance for IIS 6 & IIS 7 Classic Pipeline

You can follow the tips below to decrease page load time:

1. **Enable HTTP Compression** for both static and dynamic files.
[See this article for IIS 6](#) | [See this article for IIS 7](#)
2. **Set Content Expiration header** for better client side performance and to save bandwidth. [See this article for more info.](#)

Further Readings

In case you run into any issues not covered, please don't forget to use our free support forum where you can search existing solutions or ask questions. Here are a few important direct links:

- Knowledge Base @ <http://www.aspplayground.net/forum/f40.aspx>
- * vNext Support @ <http://www.aspplayground.net/forum/f110.aspx>
- Common Setup Problems @ <http://www.aspplayground.net/forum/m397978.aspx>
- Set up a Dev / Test site @ <http://www.aspplayground.net/forum/m407754.aspx>
- Basic Troubleshooting Guide @ <http://www.aspplayground.net/forum/m376092.aspx>
- Membership Integration @ <http://www.aspplayground.net/forum/m397994.aspx>

*only available to valid license holders