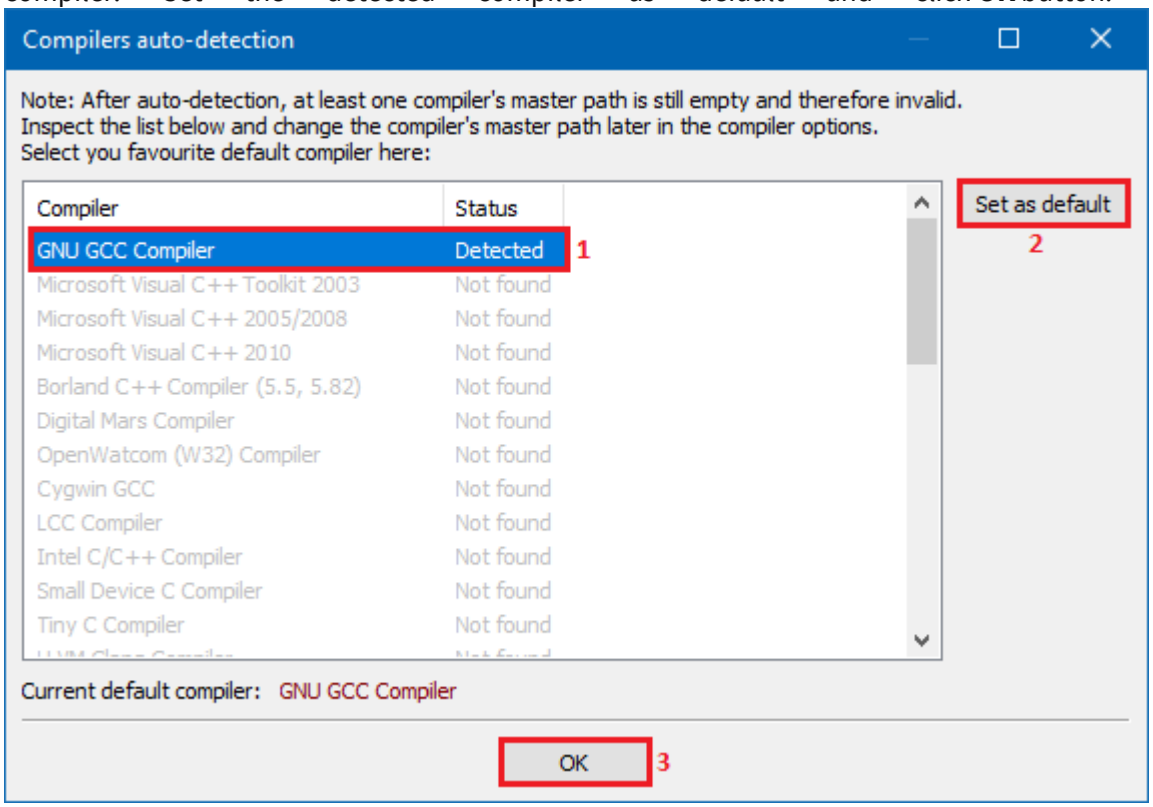
How to install CodeBlocks IDE?

CodeBlocks is an IDE (Integrated Development Environment) used to create, edit, compile, debug and execute C/C++ programs in single place. It is very powerful IDE for developing C projects.

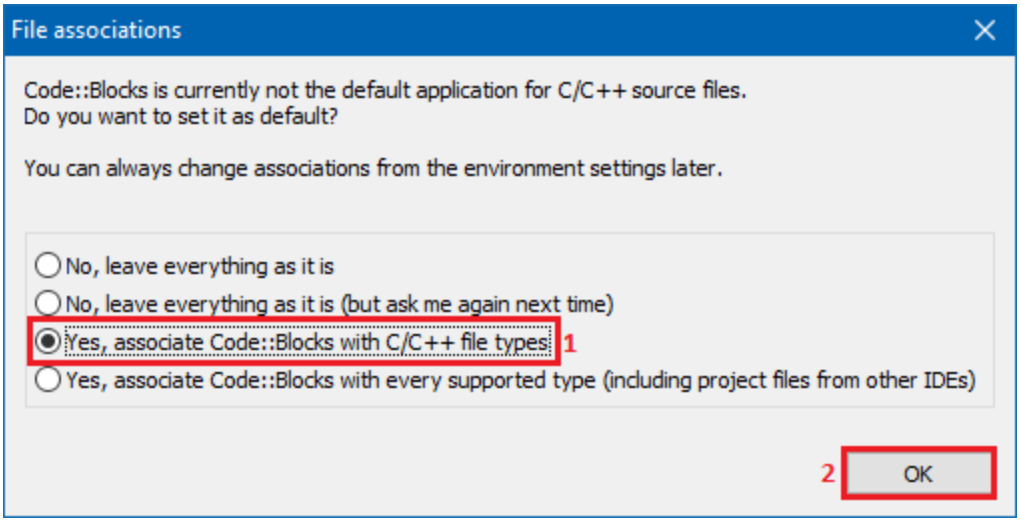
Configure CodeBlocks and GCC C compiler

On first run CodeBlocks requires few things to gear up. So let us first configure CodeBlocks.

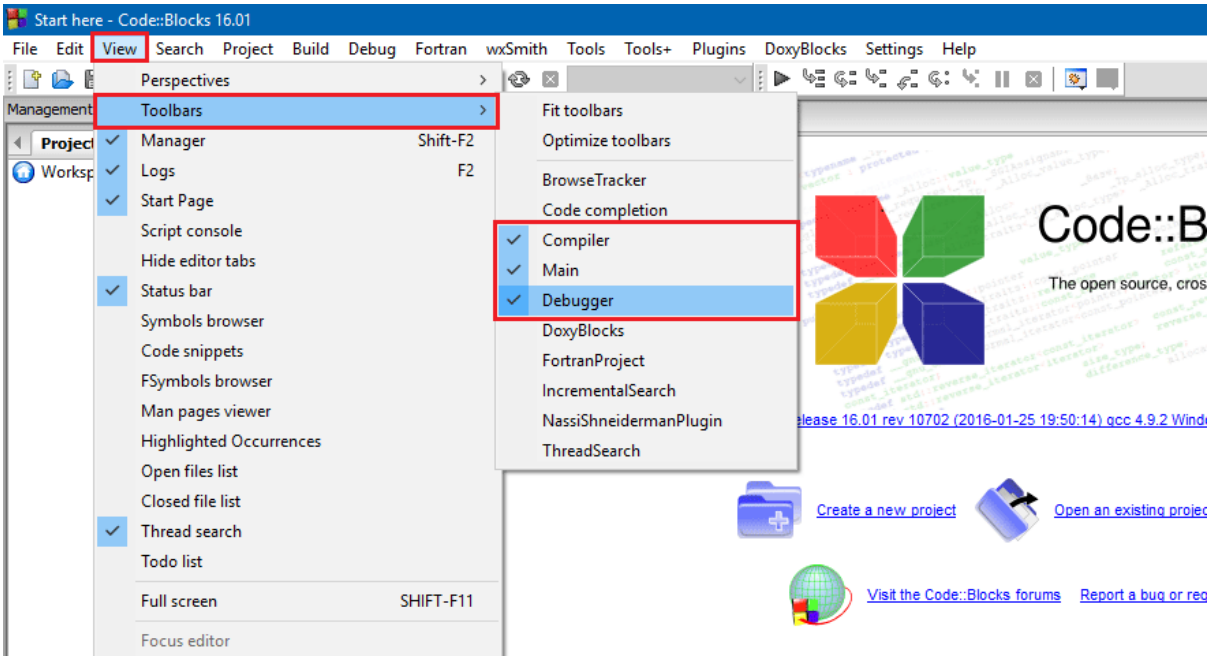
1. Associate CodeBlocks with C compiler. CodeBlocks automatically detects our installed C compiler. Set the detected compiler as default and click **OK** button.



2. Associate C/C++ files with CodeBlocks IDE. Make sure all C/C++ files opens in CodeBlocks by default.

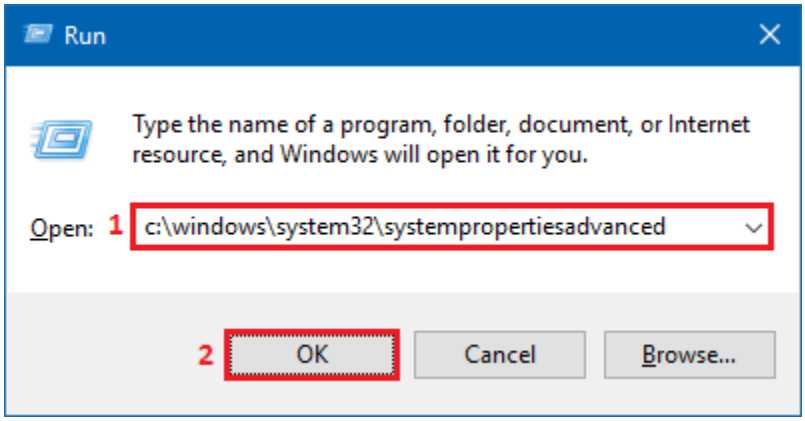


3. Set an idle perspective to use CodeBlocks for beginner.

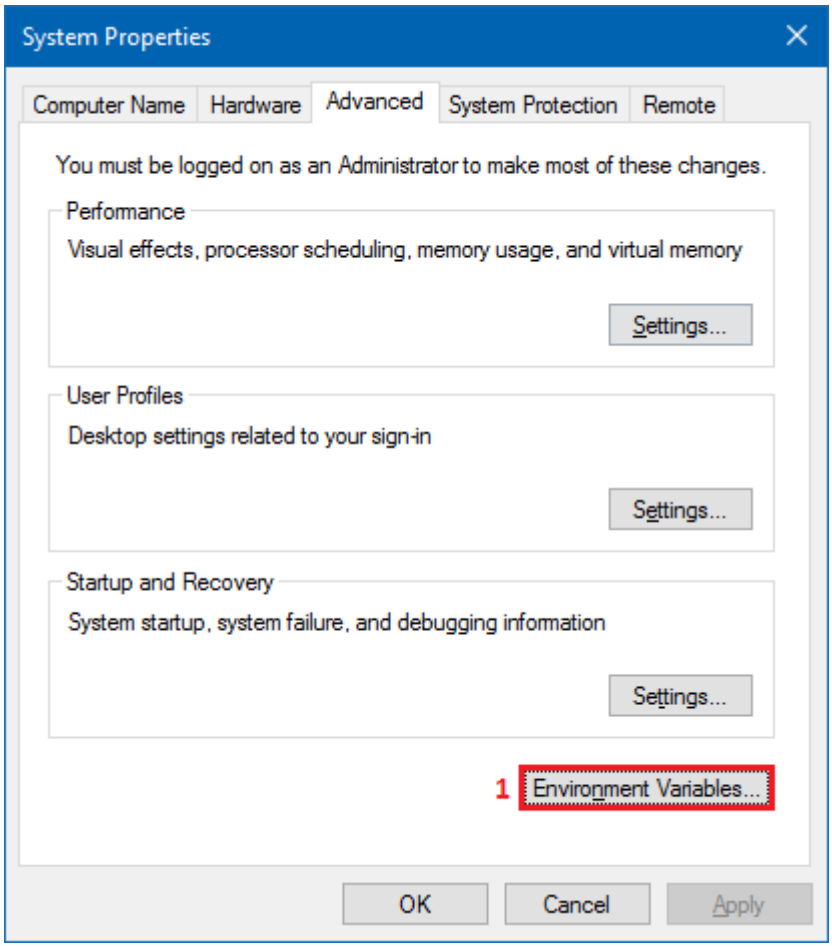


However, if you want to go geeky, compile programs from command line with various `gcc` options, then set environment variables for C compiler in Windows (in Linux no need).

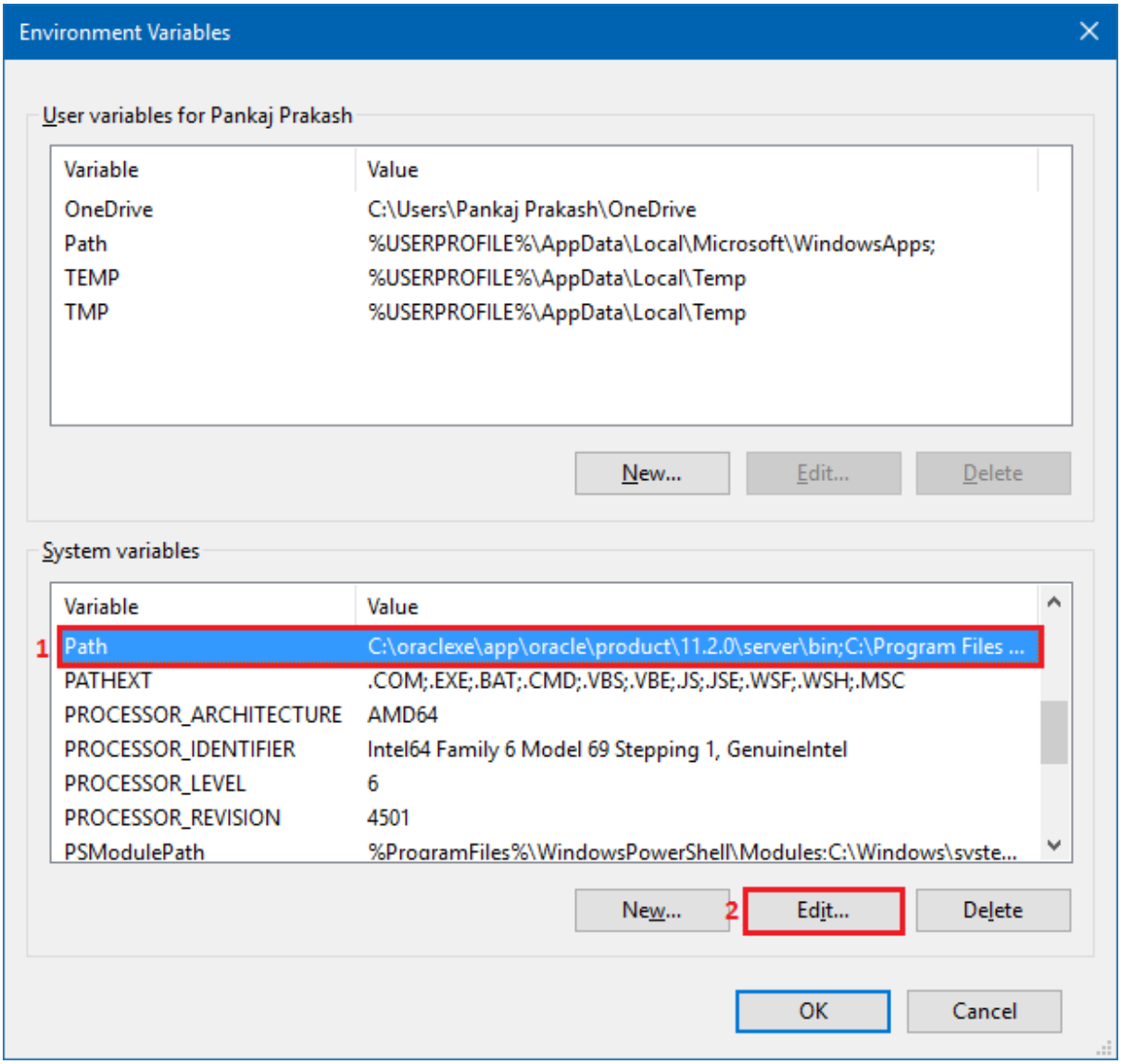
1. Hit `Win + R` to open run command window. Type `systempropertiesadvanced` or `c:\windows\system32\systempropertiesadvanced`. Click OK or hit enter to open advanced system settings dialog.



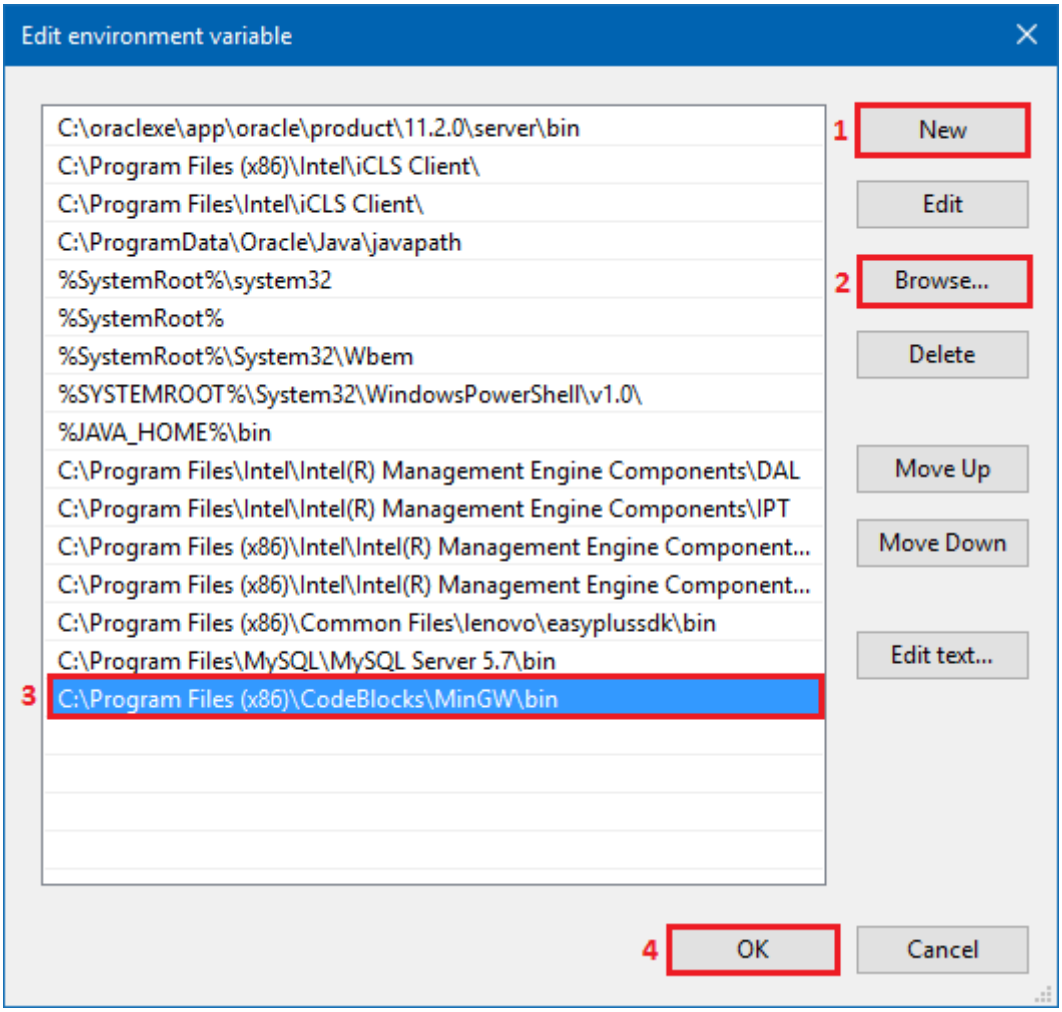
2. Inside advanced system properties, click **Environment Variables**. Alternatively, hit `n` to open Environment Variables settings.



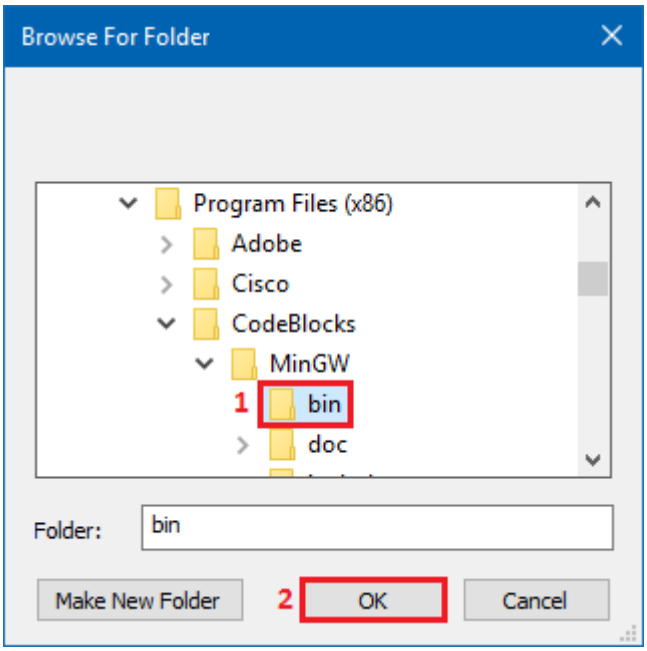
3. In the Environment Variables window, move down to **System variables**. Inside the system variables list, find **path** variable. Select the Path variable and click on **Edit**, alternatively hit `Alt + I` to open Environment Variable editor window.



4. Inside the environment variables editor window. We need to add a new entry to the **Path** environment variable. To add a new environment variable entry, click **New** then click **Browse**. This will open a file browser.



5. Go to your CodeBlocks installation folder, inside that browse for `MinGW\bin` folder. In my case CodeBlocks bin folder is located under `C:\Program Files (x86)\CodeBlocks\MinGW\bin`. Select bin folder and click **OK**.



6. Remaining is just OK...OK process. Click OK on every window you opened to save all configurations.

Verify GCC C compiler installation and configuration

To verify the above steps. Open command prompt on windows via any of these methods.

1. Open run command window by pressing `Win + R`. Inside run type `cmd` and hit enter.
2. Alternatively, hit `Win + S` to search, type `cmd` and hit enter.
3. The easiest one, press `Win + X` (on win 8 and later versions), then hit `C` to open command prompt.

In command prompt window type `gcc --version` and hit enter. This will show the version information of GCC compiler. On my machine, it shows following output.

```
gcc (tdm-1) 4.9.2
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This is free software; see the source for copying conditions.  There is NO
warranty; not even for MERCHANTABILITY or FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.
```

If `gcc --version` results in any error, then go back to the configuration step and configure it properly.