
Quick-Start Installation and User Guide

This guide is designed to provide an overview for installing flexMIRT[®] from the webpage and initializing the program for use.

1. Installing flexMIRT

To obtain the flexMIRT[®] installer, you must first register for an account on the VPG Store. The registration page may be found by selecting the My Account link in the flexMIRT[®] website banner or visited directly at <https://store.vpgcentral.com/>. From your account page, you will be able to change your password, view your current flexMIRT[®] license and expiration date information, manage licenses on your various computers (with a purchased academic license users are allowed up to 3 separate installs of the program), as well as make payments for new or renewed licenses.



Search store

[Store Home](#) | [Search](#) | [My account](#) | [Contact us](#)

Welcome, Please Sign In!

New Customer

By creating an account on our website, you will be able to shop faster, be up to date on an orders status, and keep track of the orders you have previously made.

Returning Customer

Email:

Password:

Remember me? [Forgot password?](#)

After selecting Register, you will be taken to the registration page and asked to enter your name, email address, and other information, including your desired password.

[Store Home](#) | [Search](#) | [My account](#) | [Contact us](#)

Register

Your Personal Details

First name:

Last name:

Email:

Company Details

Company / institution Name:

Options

By checking the box below I agree to my email being stored and used to receive updates from VPG.

Newsletter:

Preferences

Time zone:

Your Password

Your password must contain at least one upper case letter, at least one lower case letter, at least one digit and must be at least 7 characters long.

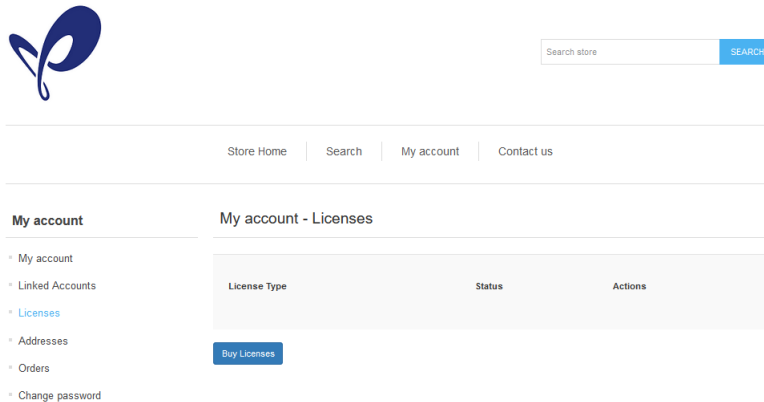
Password:

Confirm password:

[REGISTER](#)

Once you have submitted this information via the Register button, an email confirming your registration information will be sent to the email address you provided. The confirmation email will originate from web-support@vpgcentral.com - please add this email address to your safe list. You may now log in to your VPG Store account.

To gain access to the free trial or any paid license you would like to purchase, go to the Licenses page within your account which can be found on the left hand side of your screen.



Once on the License page, click the “Buy Licenses” button - you may then use the “Add to Cart” buttons under the various flexMIRT® versions to purchase a full license (Academic or Standard) at this time or select the “flexMIRT- Trial” which has a cost of \$0.00.

flexMIRT® flexMIRT® flexMIRT®

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| flexMIRT® - Operational | flexMIRT® - Standard | flexMIRT® - Trial |
| | \$1,250.00 | \$0.00 |
| ADD TO CART | ADD TO CART | ADD TO CART |

flexMIRT®

| |
|-----------------------------|
| flexMIRT® - Academic |
| \$125.00 |
| ADD TO CART |

Once you have added you selected version of flexMIRT[®] to your cart, you will be able to begin the check out process. During this process, you will need to agree to the flexMIRT End User License Agreement (EULA), which can be reviewed by clicking on the blue link just above the “CHECK-OUT” button. You will not be able to move forward with your purchase until the license agreement box has been checked.

The screenshot displays a shopping cart page. At the top left is a blue logo. To its right is a search bar with the text "Search store" and a blue "SEARCH" button. Below this is a navigation bar with links for "Store Home", "Search", "My account", and "Contact us". The main heading is "Shopping cart". Below the heading is a table with the following columns: Remove, SKU, Image, Product(s), Price, Qty, and Total. The table contains one row for "flexMIRT® - Trial" with a price of \$0.00 and a quantity of 1. Below the table are two buttons: "Update shopping cart" and "Continue shopping". At the bottom right, there is a summary section with "Sub-Total: \$0.00", "Tax: \$0.00", and "Total: \$0.00". Below the summary is a checkbox for "End User License Agreement: flexMIRT® - Trial" and a blue "CHECKOUT" button.

| Remove | SKU | Image | Product(s) | Price | Qty | Total |
|--------------------------|-----|----------|-------------------|--------|-----|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | | flexMIRT | flexMIRT® - Trial | \$0.00 | 1 | \$0.00 |

Update shopping cart Continue shopping

Sub-Total: \$0.00
Tax: \$0.00
Total: \$0.00

I agree with the terms of service and I adhere to them unconditionally:
 End User License Agreement: flexMIRT® - Trial

CHECKOUT

Once the EULA has been accepted and the “CHECKOUT” button pushed, you will be taken to the check-out process where you will need to complete additional information.

Checkout

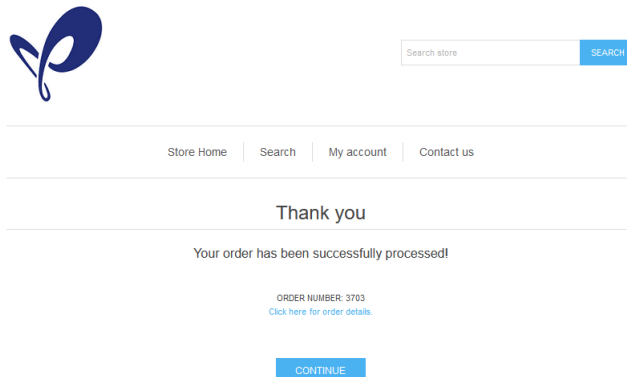
1 Billing address

First name: Jane
Last name: Doe
Email: jane.doe@email.com
Company: Any Company, LLC
Country: United States
State / province: Kansas
City: Smithville
Address 1:
Address 2:
Zip / postal code: 65505
Phone number: 0010871238
Fax number:

[CONFIRM](#)

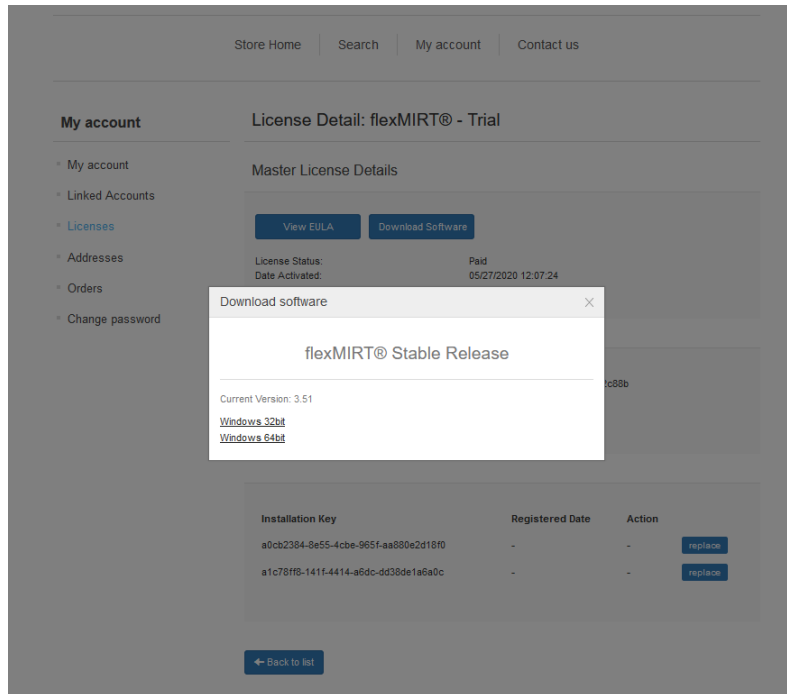
2 Payment method
3 Payment information
4 Confirm order

Complete all information as necessary and use the “CONFIRM” button to complete your order. Once completed, you will be taken to an order summary page. You will also receive an email with a copy of your invoice.

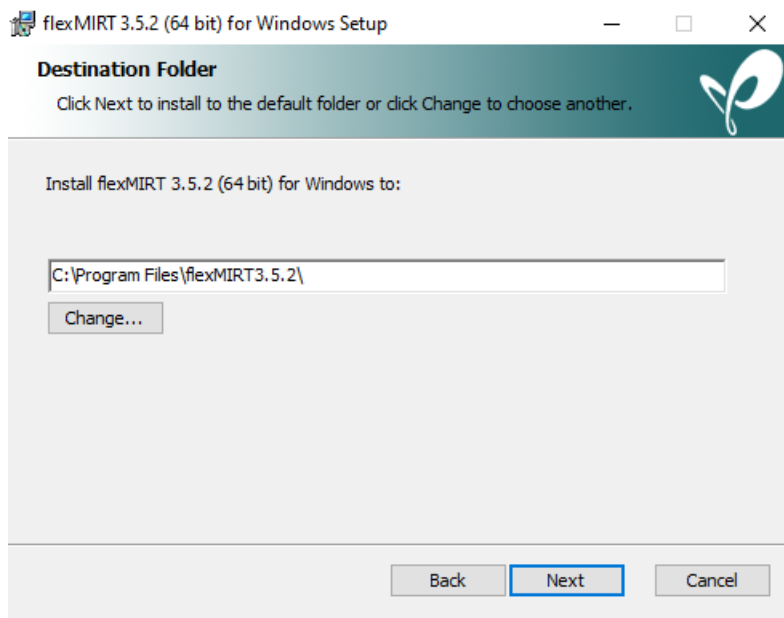


Use the “My Account” link at the top of the page to return to your account home page.

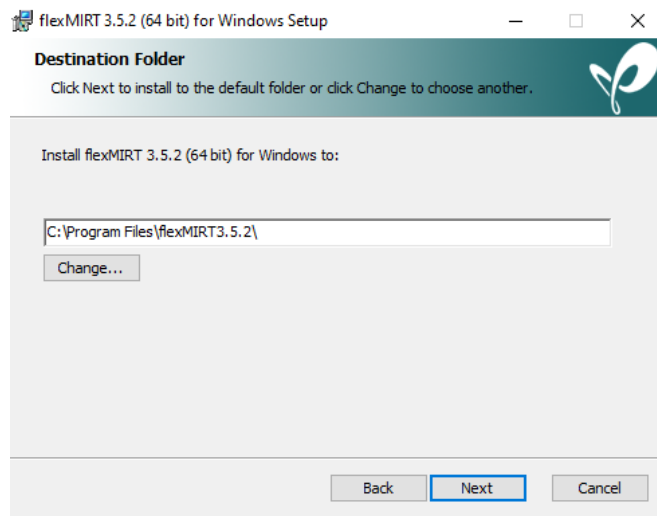
Go into your Licenses page again and you should now see the license you just purchased available for use. To access the flexMIRT® installer, click the “Manage” button. After selecting Download Software, a pop-up will appear where you will select the version of flexMIRT® appropriate for your computer.



The flexMIRT® installer should be saved to a folder where you will be able to locate it later. Locate the downloaded installer (flexMIRTInstaller.msi) and double-click to activate it. NOTE: IT MAY BE NECESSARY FOR SOME USERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WITHOUT ADMINISTRATIVE PRIVILEGES, TO RIGHT-CLICK ON THE INSTALLER AND SELECT “Run as Administrator” FOR THE PROGRAM TO FUNCTION PROPERLY ONCE IT HAS BEEN INSTALLED. Click “Next” to begin the flexMIRT® installation process.

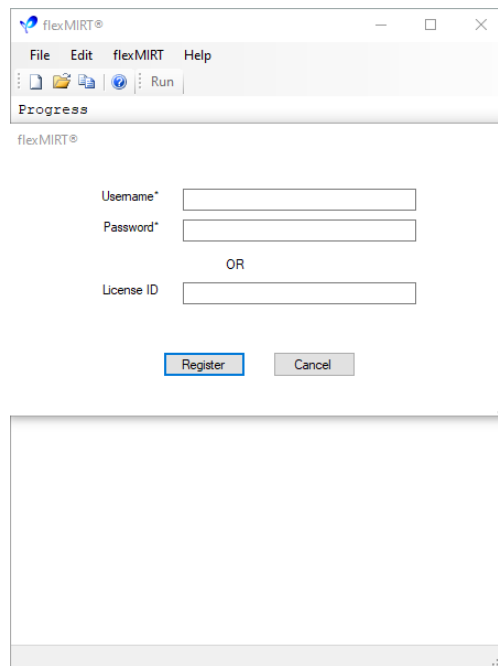


After agreeing to license terms, the next step of the installer will ask which folder you wish to install the program into. If you would like flexMIRT[®] installed somewhere other than the default location, this can be accomplished by selecting the “Change” button and directing the installer to the desired folder location.



Follow the remaining steps, as directed by the installer, until the program indicates that it has finished installing. Once flexMIRT[®] have been

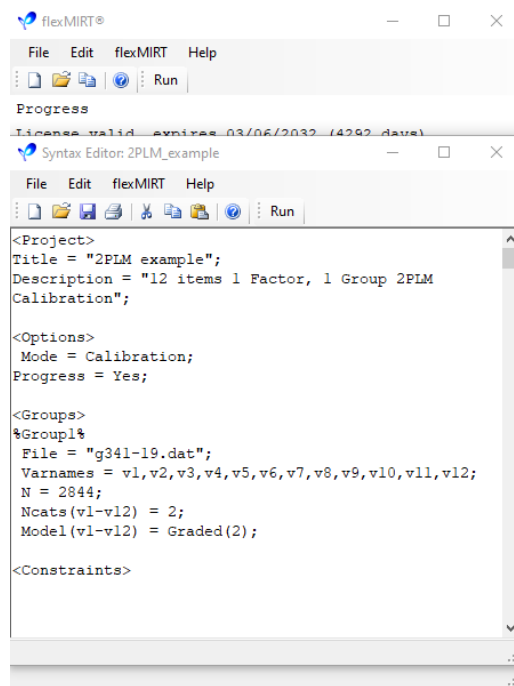
installed, a shortcut will appear on the desktop. Double-click this to initiate the program. On the first start-up flexMIRT® will open a pane where you must register the software; if you opt to cancel at this point you will receive a warning message and flexMIRT® will completely shut down. You may either supply the VPG Store account username and password you set up earlier or may copy the license code from your My Account webpage into the appropriate box.



2. Using flexMIRT

With the software registered, you are now able to conduct analyses. The flexMIRT® support page (<http://www.vpgcentral.com/irt-software/support>) has the User's Manual and numerous example syntax command files with accompanying datasets, to help you become acquainted with the types of analyses that may be conducted and how command files should be structured. By selecting "New" under "File" or using the "New" icon, a command file containing necessary statements for a basic analysis opens. Once you have modified this command file, it must be saved prior to being able to submit the analysis to flexMIRT®; the "Run" button is disabled until the file has been saved to prevent the example code from being over-written.

To provide a brief tutorial, we will focus on the first example, found in the folder Example 3-2. Existing files are opened using the Open command under the File option of the processing pane, which is the pane opened when the program is first initiated. Once the desired flexMIRT[®] command file is located and selected, it will be opened in a separate pane, labeled Syntax Editor: with the file name listed after.



The command file is submitted for analyses by clicking the “Run” button on the far right of the icon toolbar. flexMIRT[®] will print its progress (e.g., EM iteration number, etc.) in the Progress pane that will appear beneath the syntax and, when complete, will open the Output Viewer pane, which will contain all results. Additionally, the results are written to an external text file, which may be opened at a later time with flexMIRT[®] or a text editor such as Notepad.

The screenshot shows the flexMIRT software interface. The main window is titled "flexMIRT®" and contains a menu bar (File, Edit, flexMIRT, Help) and a toolbar with icons for file operations and a "Run" button. Below the toolbar is a "Progress" bar. There are two sub-windows: "Syntax Editor: 2PLM_example" and "Output Viewer: 2PLM_example - 03:27:49". The Output Viewer window displays the following text:

```
flexMIRT (R) Engine Version 3.51 (64-bit)
Flexible Multilevel Multidimensional Item Response
Modeling and Test Scoring
(C) 2013-2017 Vector Psychometric Group, LLC.,
Chapel Hill, NC, USA

2PLM example
12 items 1 Factor, 1 Group 2PLM Calibration

Summary of the Data and Dimensions
Missing data code      -9
Number of Items        12
Number of Cases        2844
# Latent Dimensions     1

Item  Categories      Model
1      2              Graded
2      2              Graded
3      2              Graded
4      2              Graded
5      2              Graded
6      2              Graded
7      2              Graded
8      2              Graded
9      2              Graded
10     2              Graded
11     2              Graded
12     2              Graded

Bock-Aitkin EM Algorithm Control Values
Maximum number of cycles: 500
Convergence criterion: 1.00e-004
```