



Workshop Preparation: Before Session 1

Please read through these instructions and perform the following quick tasks BEFORE attending Session 1. This will get you set up and ready to go, and will save time for everyone at the beginning of the session.

If you have trouble with any of the steps, please contact the course organiser.

1 Download XOD Software

Please make sure you have downloaded the XOD software to your computer. The software can be downloaded on the XOD website: www.xod.io. Please click on 'Download the Desktop IDE' (the browser IDE is not suitable for this workshop).

2 Check Your USB Drivers

Before the session it is important to check if you need to download the USB drivers. These are required for your computer to communicate with the Arduino board. Many operating systems will come with these installed, but some do not.

TO CHECK THIS:

1. Plug your board into your computer using the USB cable supplied in the right-hand compartment of the Grove box.
2. Open the XOD software.
3. Click on the little lightning bolt button in the bottom right corner.
4. Click on the dropdown menu underneath the text 'Serial Port:'
5. You should see an option that ends in '(Silicon Labs)'.

If you **DO NOT** see this option you need to download and install a CP210 driver. If you **DO** see one of these options you do not need to do anything further.

Downloads for most common operating systems are available from Silabs at www.silabs.com/developers/usb-to-uart-bridge-vcp-drivers under the **DOWNLOADS** tab.

3 Download the Beginner's Guide

You can find the No-Code Programming for Biology Beginner's Guide on the Biomaker website under the **RESOURCES** tab, or at bit.ly/biomaker-beginners-guide. You will need the instructions in this guide to complete some of the tasks in this workshop. We will work through most of the activities in this guide together during the workshop, but please feel free to take a look beforehand if you wish.