



Installing the free Zeiss ZEN software (Ver 3.11) on a Windows PC

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Zeiss Microscopy makes available a free version of their ZEN Blue software that users can freely install on appropriately powerful Windows PCs. ZEN Blue lite cannot perform all the functions available on the instruments and the workstations in our core facility (these have additional licensed software modules), but this software is very useful to have for file management, viewing CZI files, and export.

System requirements/recommendations (could not find anything “official”):

- Compatible with 64bit versions of Microsoft Windows 10 and Windows 11.
- We recommend that users install this software on a higher-end computer workstation with plenty of RAM (more is usually better), a higher-end multi-core CPU, a large hard disk drive, with a large monitor. If you do not have an appropriately powerful computer in your lab, you are welcome to use our core facility’s free image analysis/processing computers.
- ZEN will usually run on less well-equipped computers, like a laptop, but if you have large data you will likely find it frustratingly slow.
- In the past the Zeiss official installation instructions have expressed concern about security software (e.g., antivirus) interfering with ZEN. The Zeiss installation documents give detailed information about folders and files that should be excluded from antivirus scanning. In our experience, the UA’s Sophos antivirus does not interfere with the ZEN software in any appreciable way.

WARNING - If you have a Zeiss configured computer attached to a camera, microscope, or other hardware that is controlled by any version of Zeiss ZEN, do not install a newer version of ZEN on that computer!



Software upgrades to computers controlling Zeiss hardware should only be done by Zeiss personnel or by following your Zeiss technical representative’s specific instructions.

Installation instructions:

If you have an earlier version of Zeiss’ ZEN software on your computer (the version we have available for installation is ZEN Blue 3.11), then please uninstall all parts of the previous version of ZEN before installing the more recent version. Older versions of ZEN often wanted to install in C:\ZEN. After running the uninstall routine, delete this folder (if it exists).

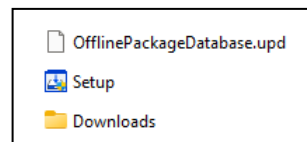
You can get a slightly newer version of ZEN Blue by going through the non-intuitive process that Zeiss provides, starting at: <https://www.zeiss.com/microscopy/us/products/software/zeiss-zen-lite.html> For the most part, point updates do not add additional features to the Lite version of the software, so there’s not a lot of benefit to having the newest version. If you go to the Zeiss website, their installation method requires the use of their official Microscopy Installer. You will need to register for a MyZeiss online account, provide the company with a lot of information, and then wait for your request to be approved. Zeiss support showed us how to bypass most of that to make for a much simpler installation process.

University of Arizona users should email the core facility (opticalimaging@arizona.edu) to get the latest version of ZEN Blue lite that we have (we will send you a BOX link).

NOTE: *Uninstalling old versions of ZEN Blue and then installing this most current version will require administrative privileges on the computer. Depending on how your computer is configured, you may need to make arrangements with your college/departmental IT personnel to install the software.*

Installation steps:

1. It's often a good idea to go to the trouble of creating a Windows system restore point before doing a big software installation. This will allow you to "roll back" to an earlier state in the event that there are problems. (<https://www.lifewire.com/how-to-use-system-restore-in-windows-2626131>)
2. Download the entire 4.5GB ZIP file from the BOX link provided. If possible, do your download to a computer that is physically wired to the network, rather than over a much slower WiFi connection. If need be, you can move the file between computers on a larger flash drive or external hard drive.
3. Extract the ZIP file to a folder. Navigate down into that folder to find the **Setup.exe** file. A reminder that you will need administrative permission to install this software.
4. Double click on **Setup.exe** to start the installation.
5. Agree to the terms and conditions of the Zeiss Microscopy Installer (say YES).
6. You don't need the Zeiss Predictive Service, so you can skip this (even if it nags you for a few clicks).
7. Click OK to complete the first part of the Zeiss Microscopy Installer portion. Next, agree to the terms and conditions. Click on the list (under installs) where it says ZEN 3.11 (should then turn blue), then click INSTALL to add the help files. After 2-3 minutes, the installation will be done and click OK in the Zeiss Microscopy Installer. You can now close the Zeiss Microscopy Installer (X in upper left).
8. Congratulations, you have installed ZEN Blue lite 3.11.



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