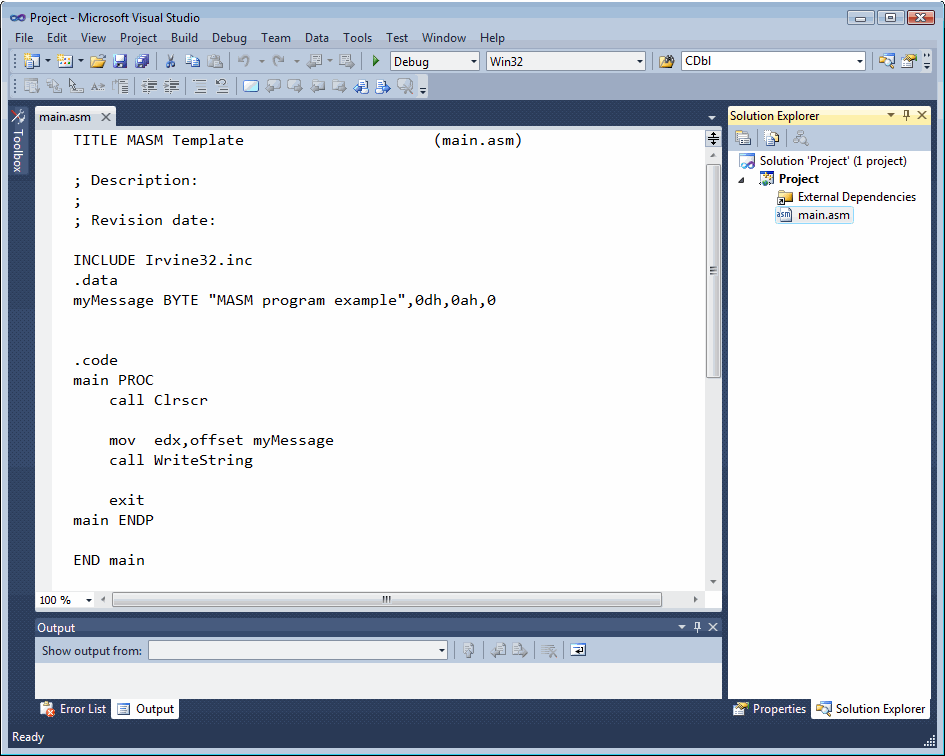
**MASM syntax highlighting**

When a text editor uses syntax highlighting, language keywords, strings, and other elements appear in different colors. Visual Studio and Visual C++ Express can highlight MASM reserved words and strings, as shown in the following example:



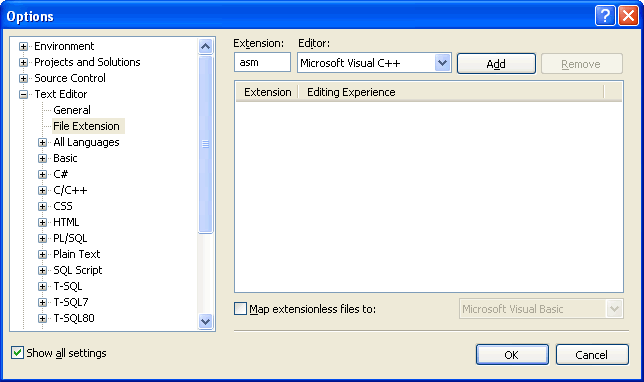
This won't happen automatically, but you can create a syntax definition file named Usertype.dat that contains MASM keywords. Then when Visual Studio (or Visual C++ Express) starts, it reads the syntax file and highlights MASM keywords.

Here are the required steps to set up MASM syntax highlighting in Visual Studio or Visual C++ Express:

1) Download the [Usertype.dat](http://kipirvine.com/asm/gettingStartedVS2010/usertype.dat) file given here to a folder in which you have read/write permissions. If you are using Windows Vista, download to My Documents, or C:\temp, or any folder that doesn't have security restrictions.

2) Copy Usertype.dat to the C:\Program Files\Microsoft Visual Studio xx.x\Common7\IDE folder. If you are using Windows Vista, it will display a verification window before copying the file. ("xx" may be 9.x or 10.x)

3) Open Visual Studio or Visual C++ Express, select **Options** from the Tools menu, select **Text Editor**, and select **File Extension**. On the right side of the dialog (shown below), enter **asm** as the extension, select **Microsoft Visual C++** from the Editor list, and click the **Add** button. Click the **OK** button to save your changes.



Close Visual Studio and restart it. Open your project and display an ASM file. You should see syntax highlighting in the editor.