**Getting Started With**

**Microsoft Visual Studio Team Services (VSTS)**

**Part 1**

By

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Table of Contents

[What is Microsoft VSTS? 2](#_Toc502730876)

[Creating Microsoft VSTS account 3](#_Toc502730877)

[Create User Story and Task 12](#_Toc502730878)

[Open the Project in Visual Studio 16](#_Toc502730879)

[Summary 28](#_Toc502730880)

# What is Microsoft VSTS?

Microsoft Visual Studio Team Services (VSTS) is a new cloud based offering which helps the project teams to take care of all aspects of the process for software development.

Visual Studio Team Services (VSTS) is an online hosted service from Microsoft. The best part of VSTS is that you don’t need to install anything, you can either go for a pay as you use or the FREE 5 user license via [www.visualstudio.com](http://www.visualstudio.com)

So Microsoft VSTS is an Application Lifecycle Management (ALM) system which helps the entire project team to capture Requirements, Agile /Traditional Project Planning, Work Item management, Version Control, Build, Deployment, and manual Testing all in a single platform.

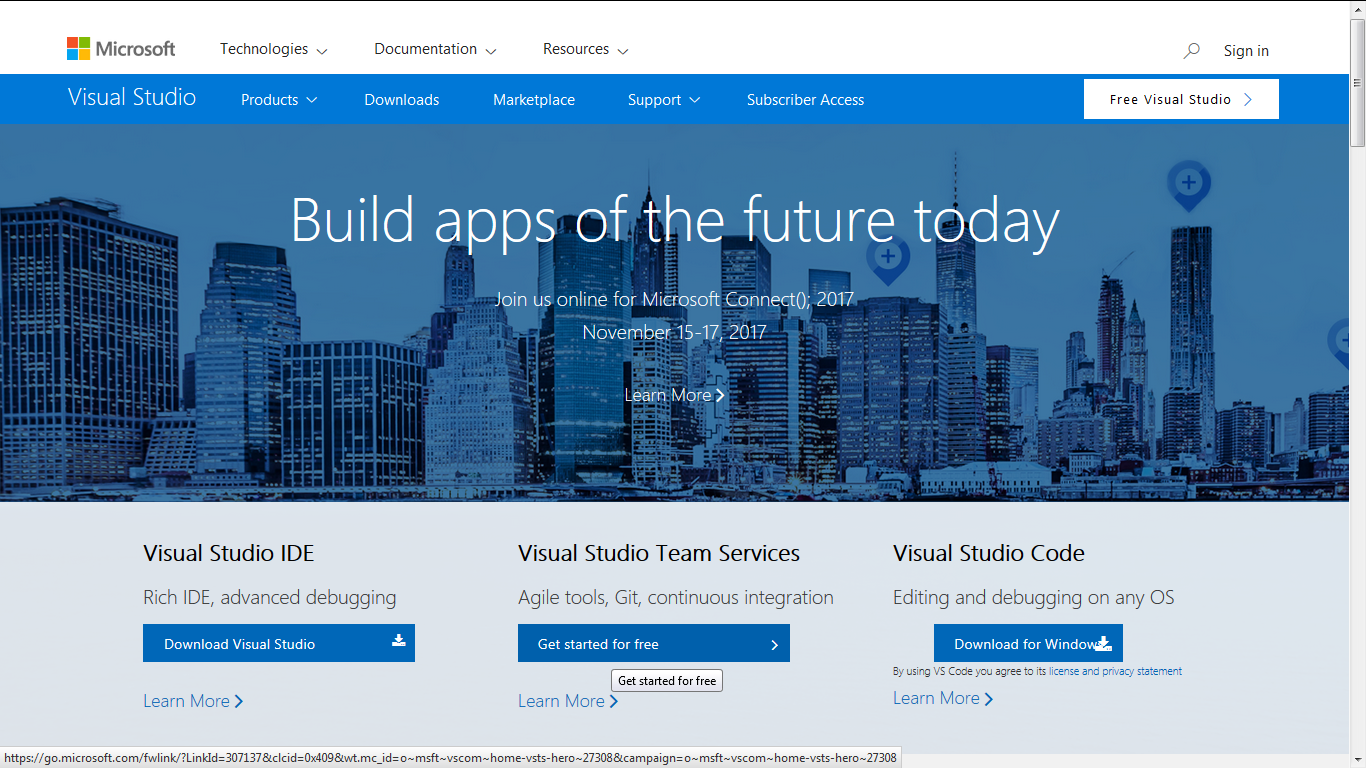
**In simple terms Microsoft VSTS is Team Foundation Server (TFS) on the cloud.**

VSTS is tightly integrated with Visual Studio. NET IDE.

In this article we will see how the same features can be used or extended to perform deployments over cloud and in particular Azure cloud.

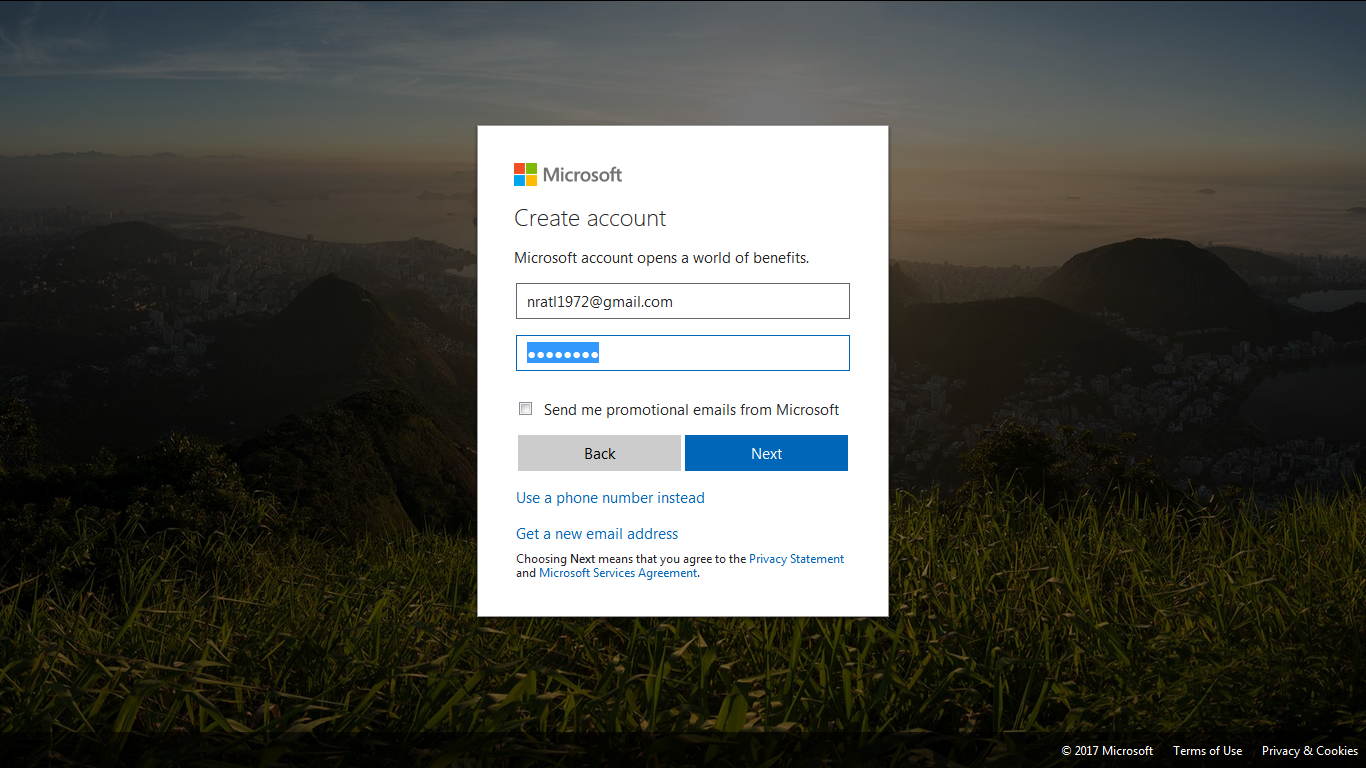
# Creating Microsoft VSTS account

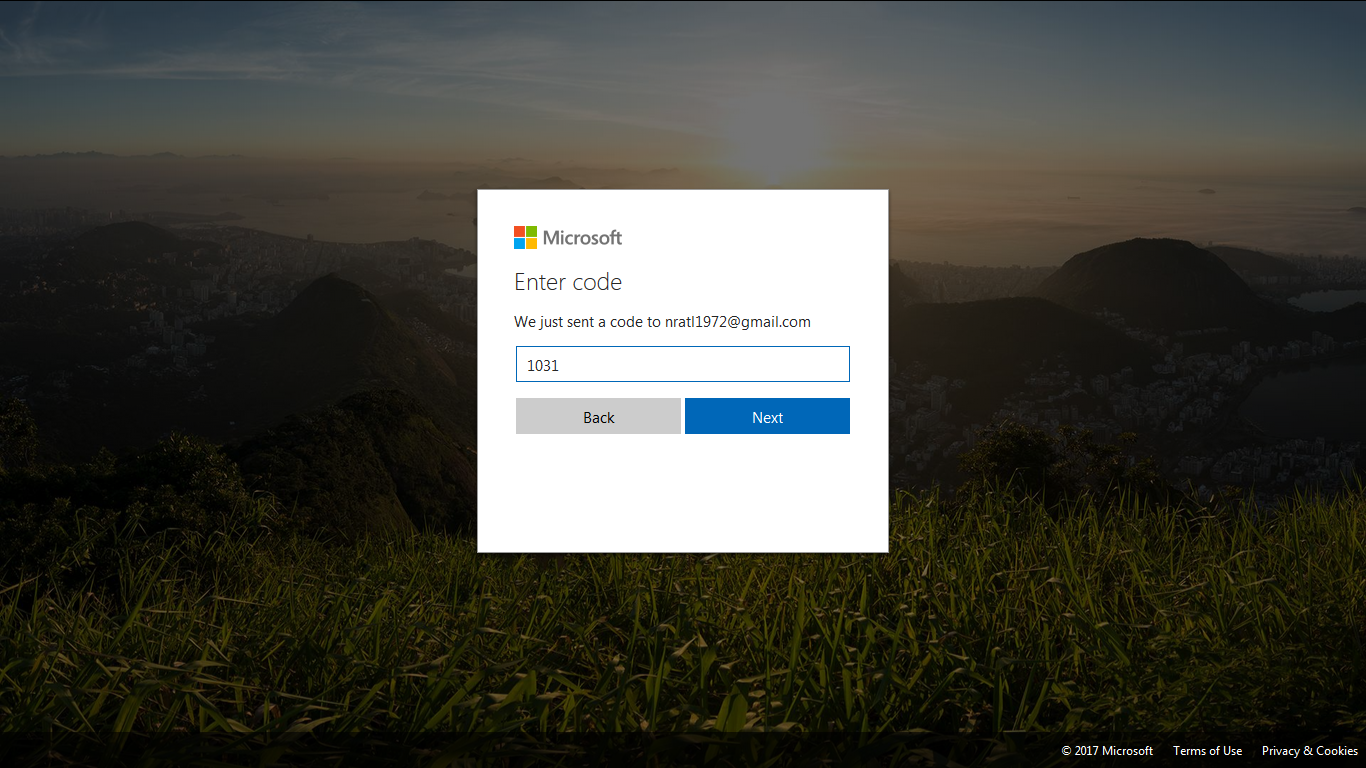
To get started launch the URL [www.visualstudio.com](http://www.visualstudio.com) and create an free account as shown below. Once account is created you can start by creating projects.

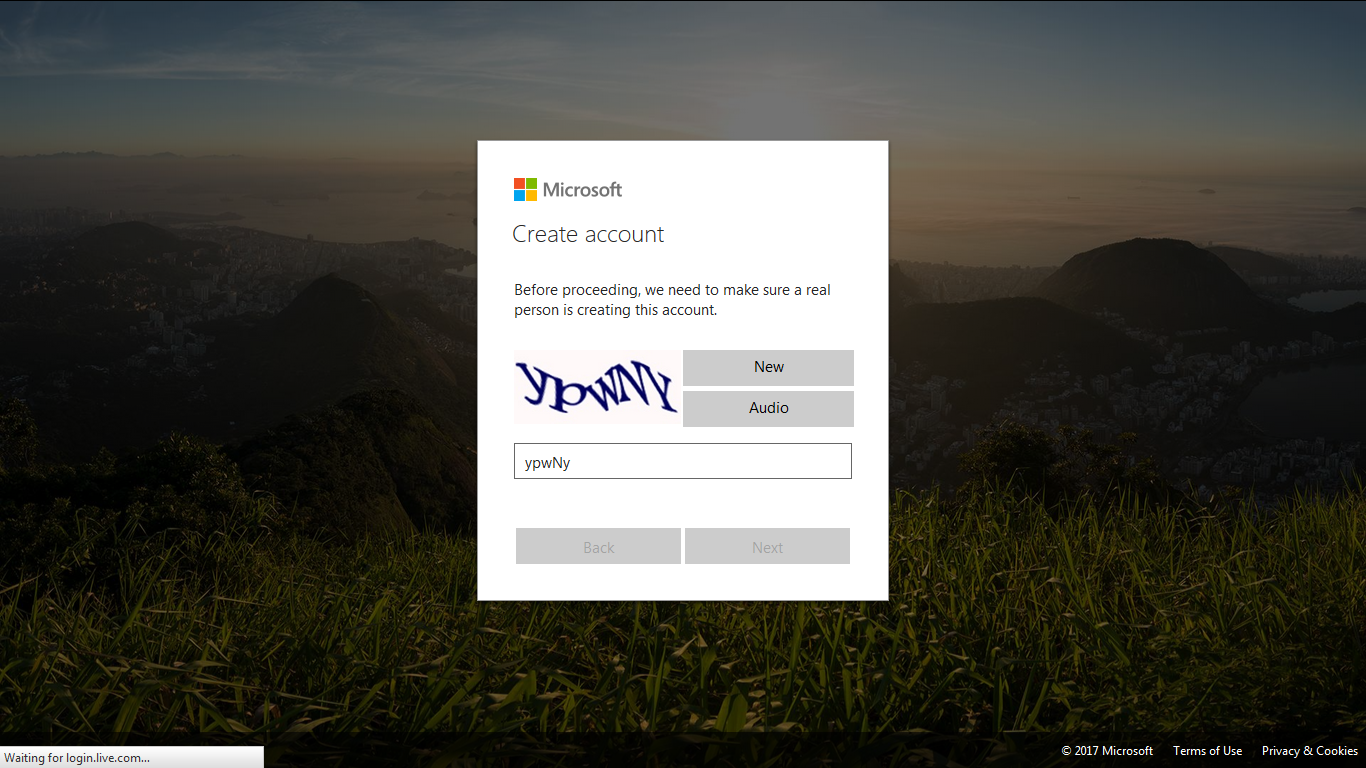


Click the button "**Get started for free**" under the Visual Studio Team Services column

Enter the desired account details which you will be using to perform project related activities.



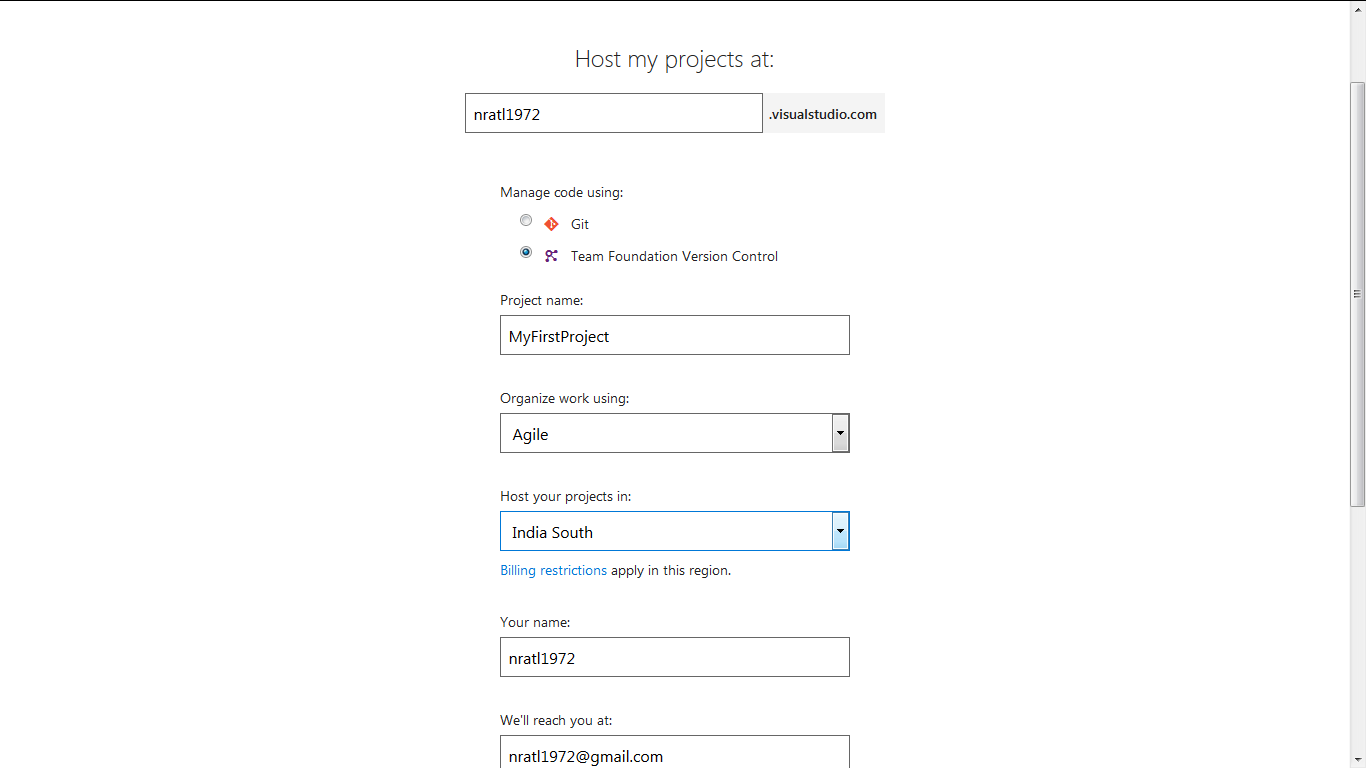




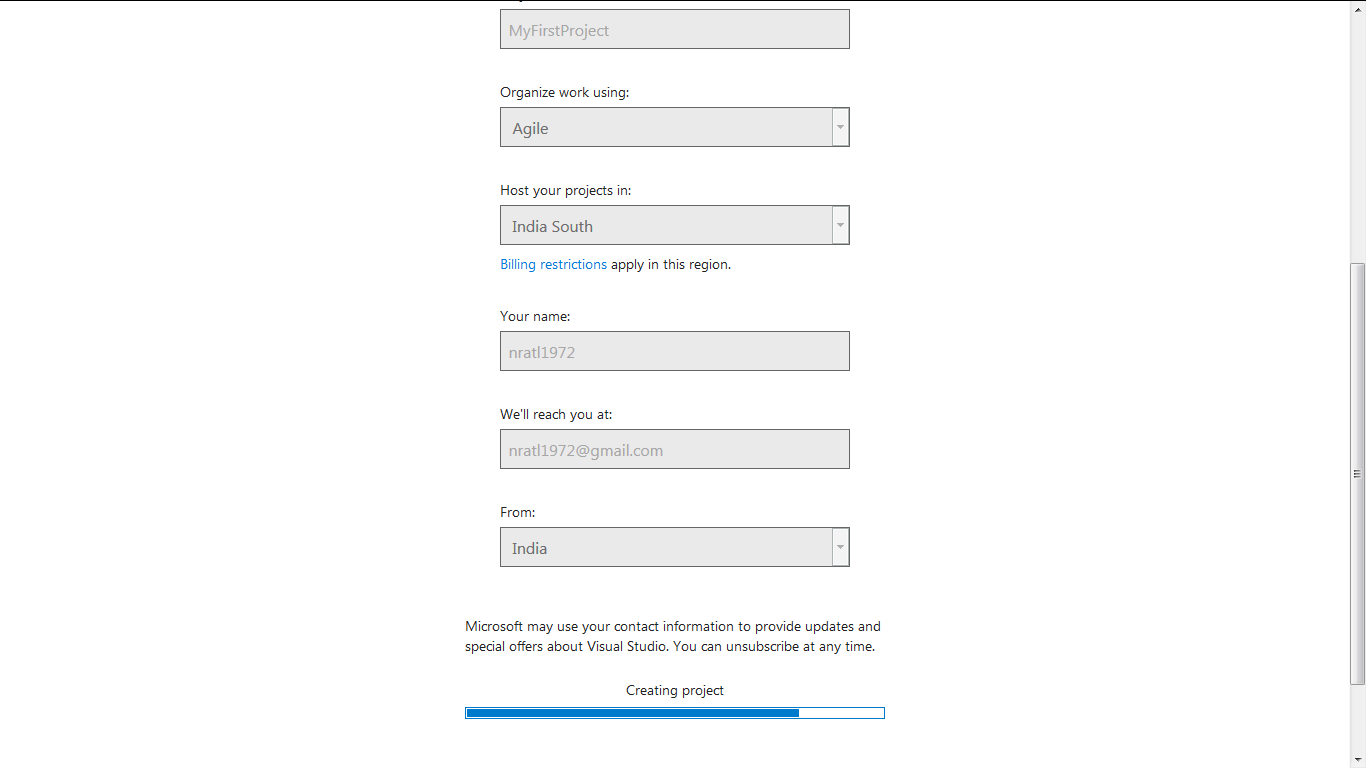
One important aspect is that in the below screenshot you will need to provide a unique name which will be used as URL to login to Microsoft VSTS. You can also manage code artifacts using private Git repo or the TFVC. For this article we will use the TFVC repo to manage the source code.



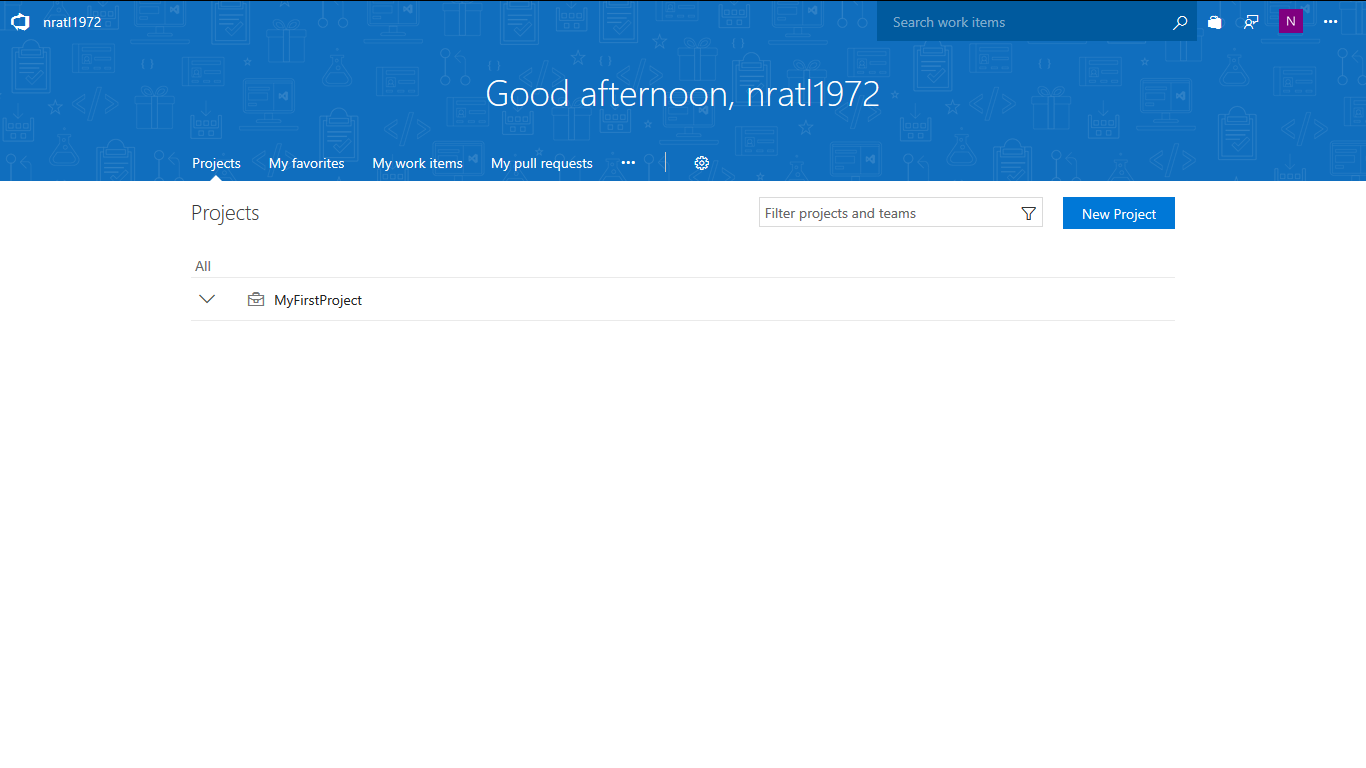
Proceed to start creating VSTS projects using TFVC repo and select the process that the entire project team would be working with for e.g. Agile, Scrum etc.



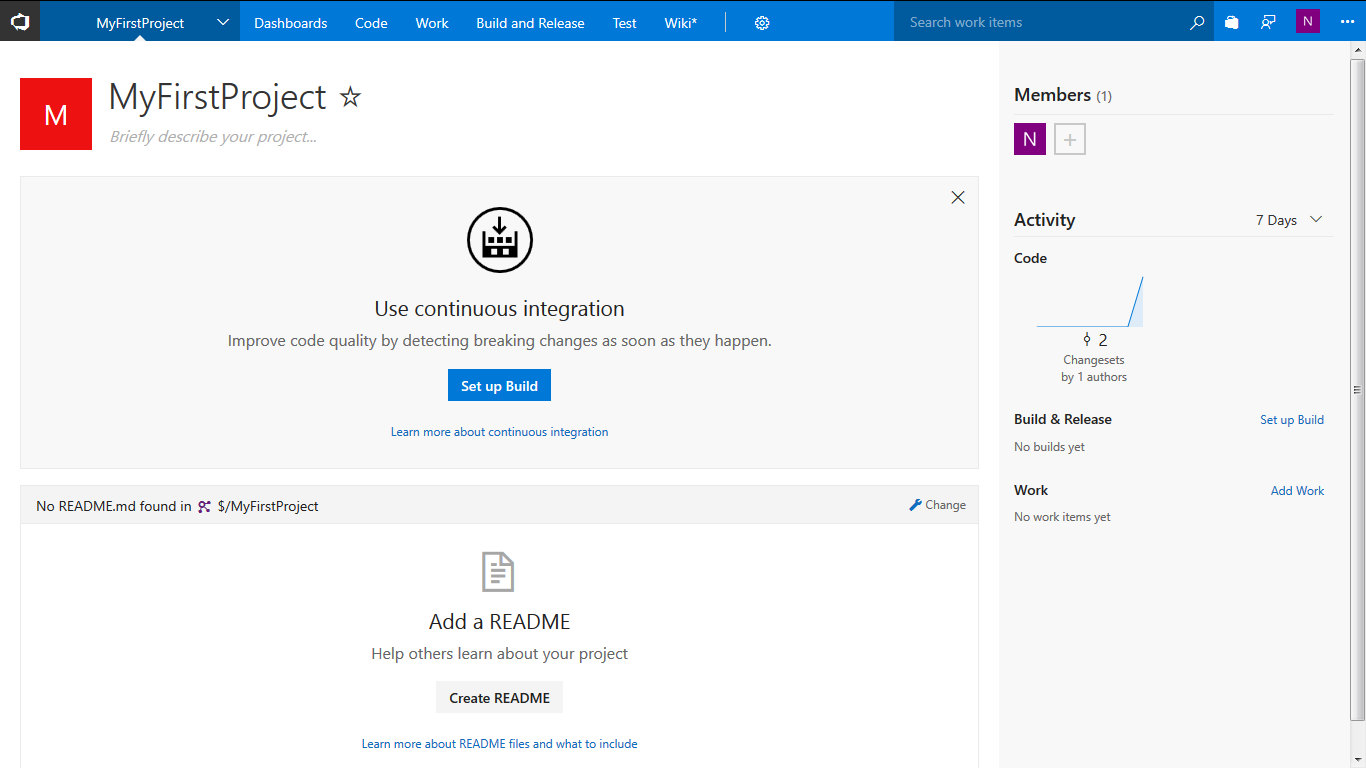
Click Continue to create the project



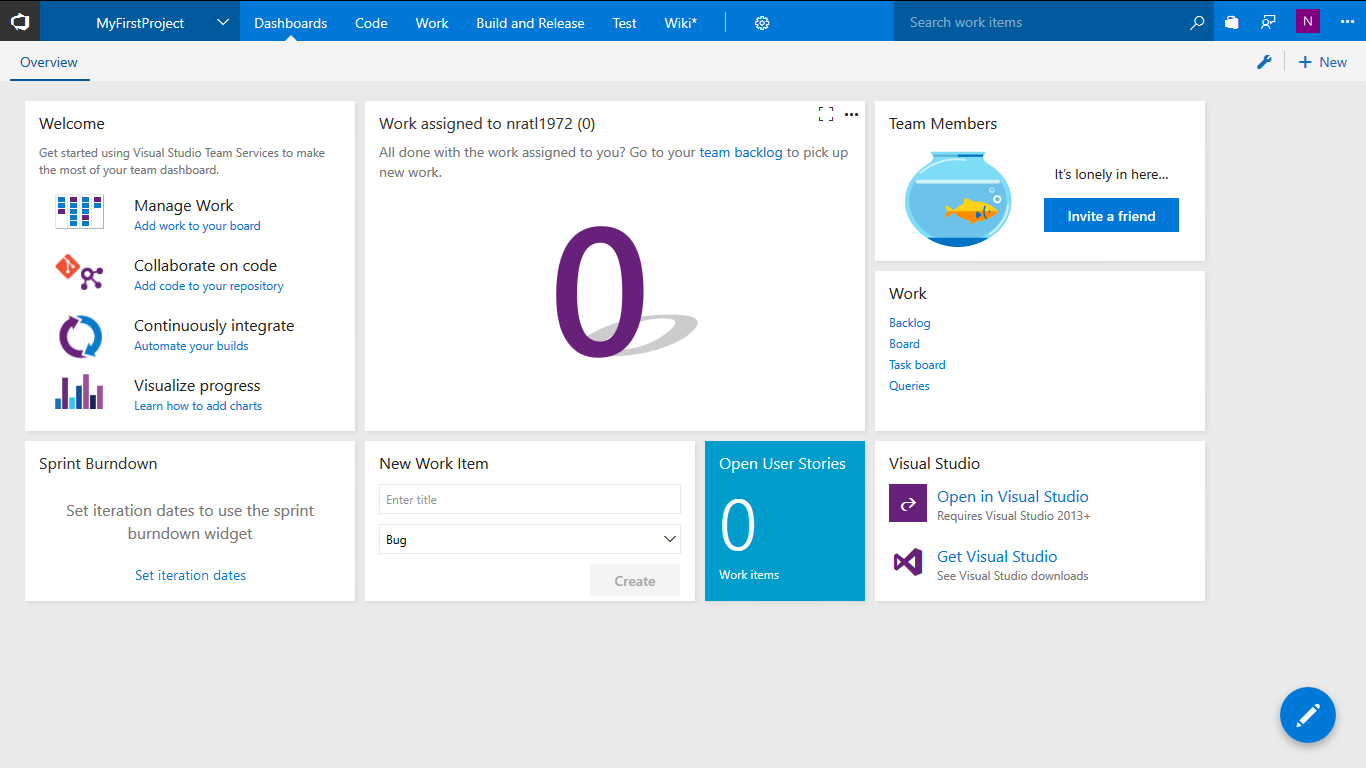
The project created is listed. You can also create additional VSTS projects by clicking on the **New Project** icon.



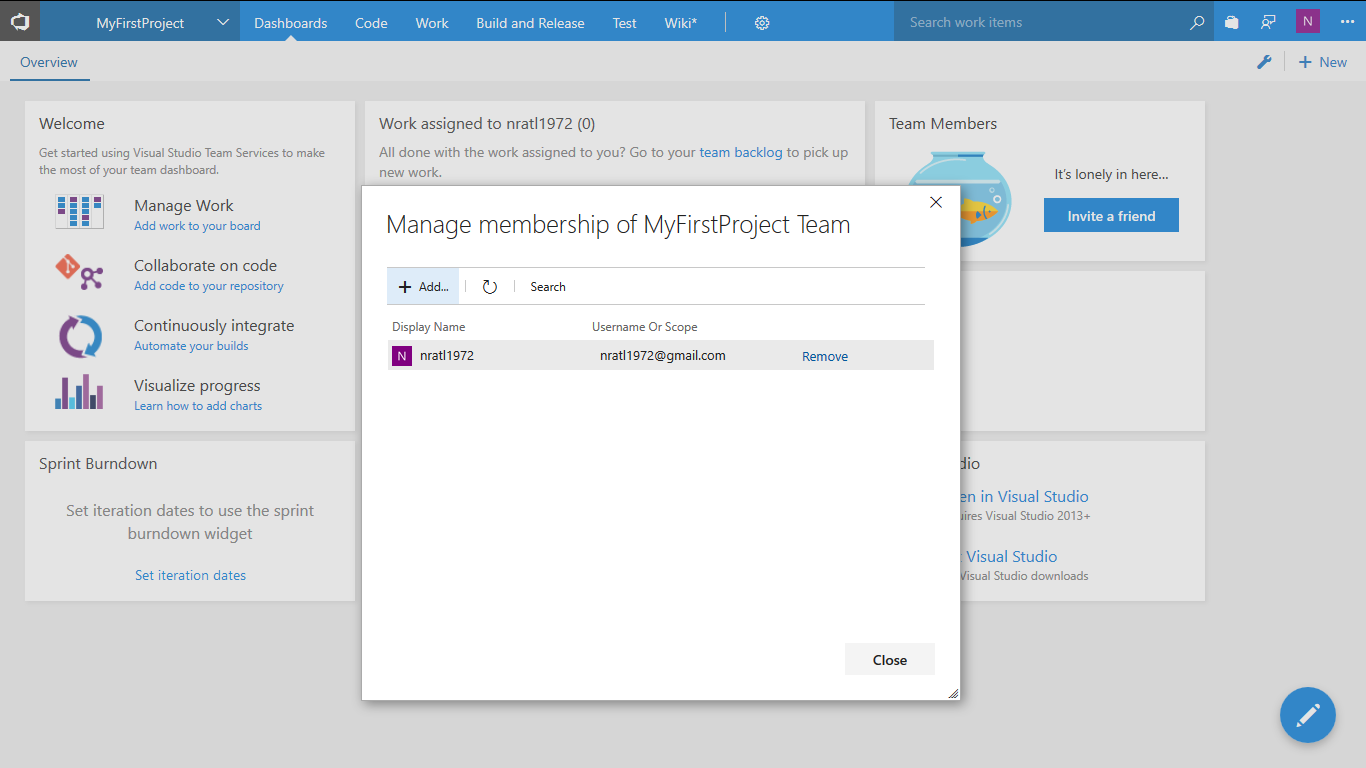
Click on **MyFirstProject** and this will open up the project page for you. This is very similar to TFS which we saw earlier in my earlier articles. The user interface though is bit different.



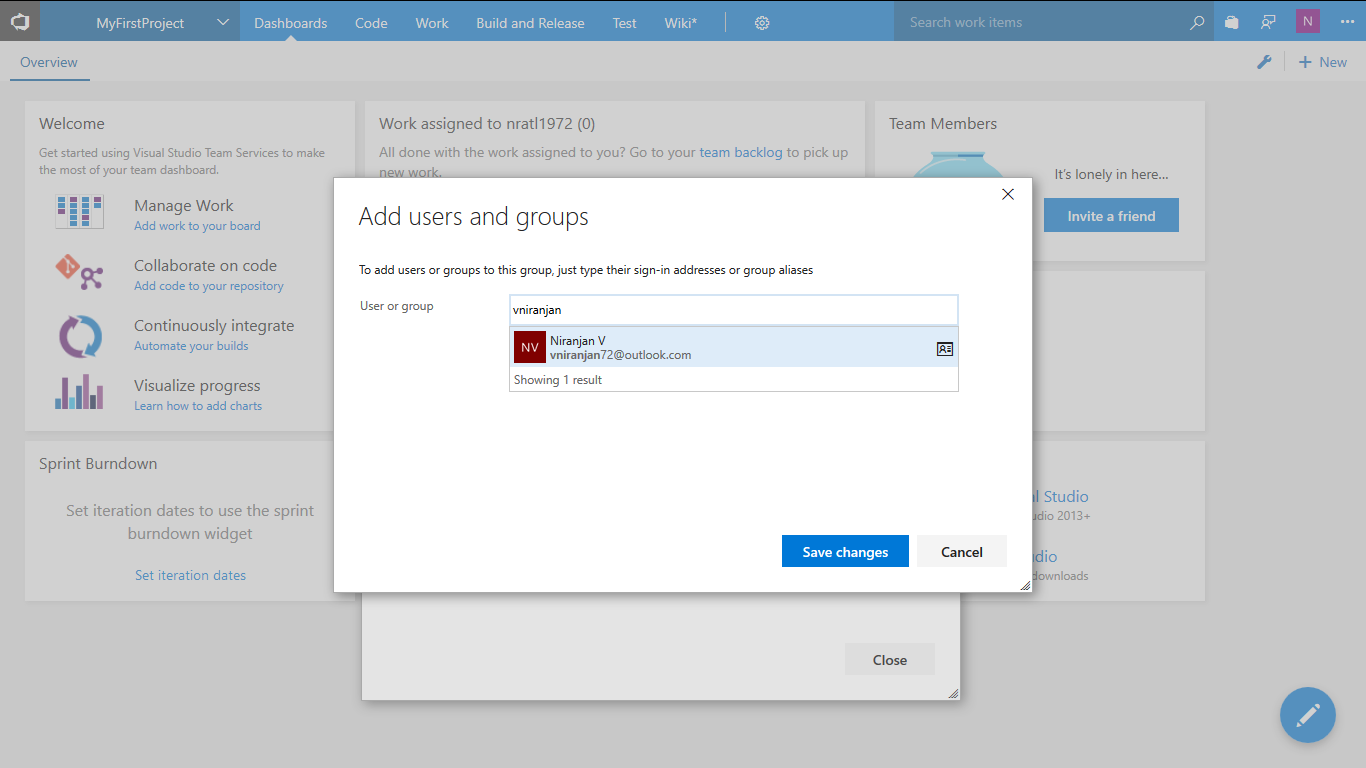
Click on **Dashboards menu.** Since VSTS is meant to be a platform for the entire project team to work and collaborate together one of the initial activities that need to be performed is to add all the team members to work on the project

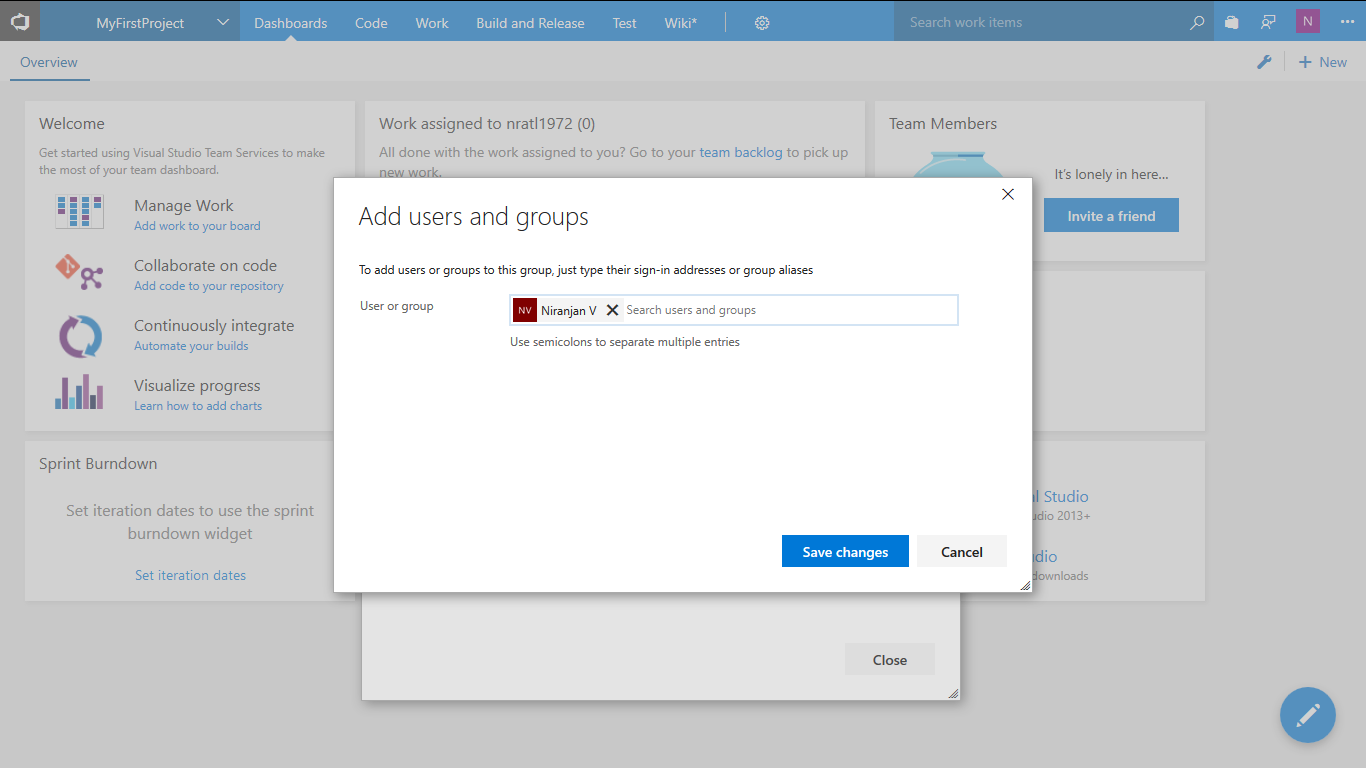


Under Team Members on the right click on **Invite a friend** and add all the other VSTS accounts created by the team.

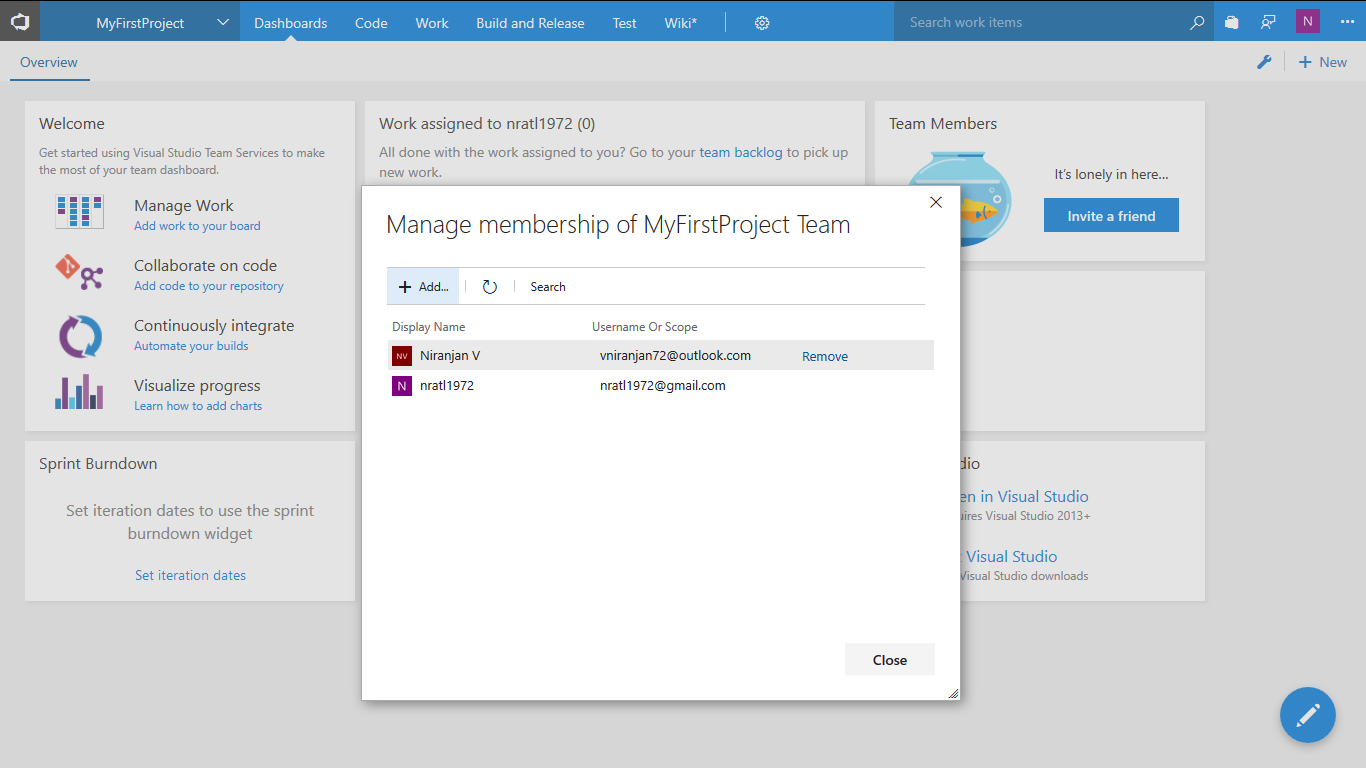


Search all the VSTS accounts created by the team and Add them to the project just created. Save changes once done





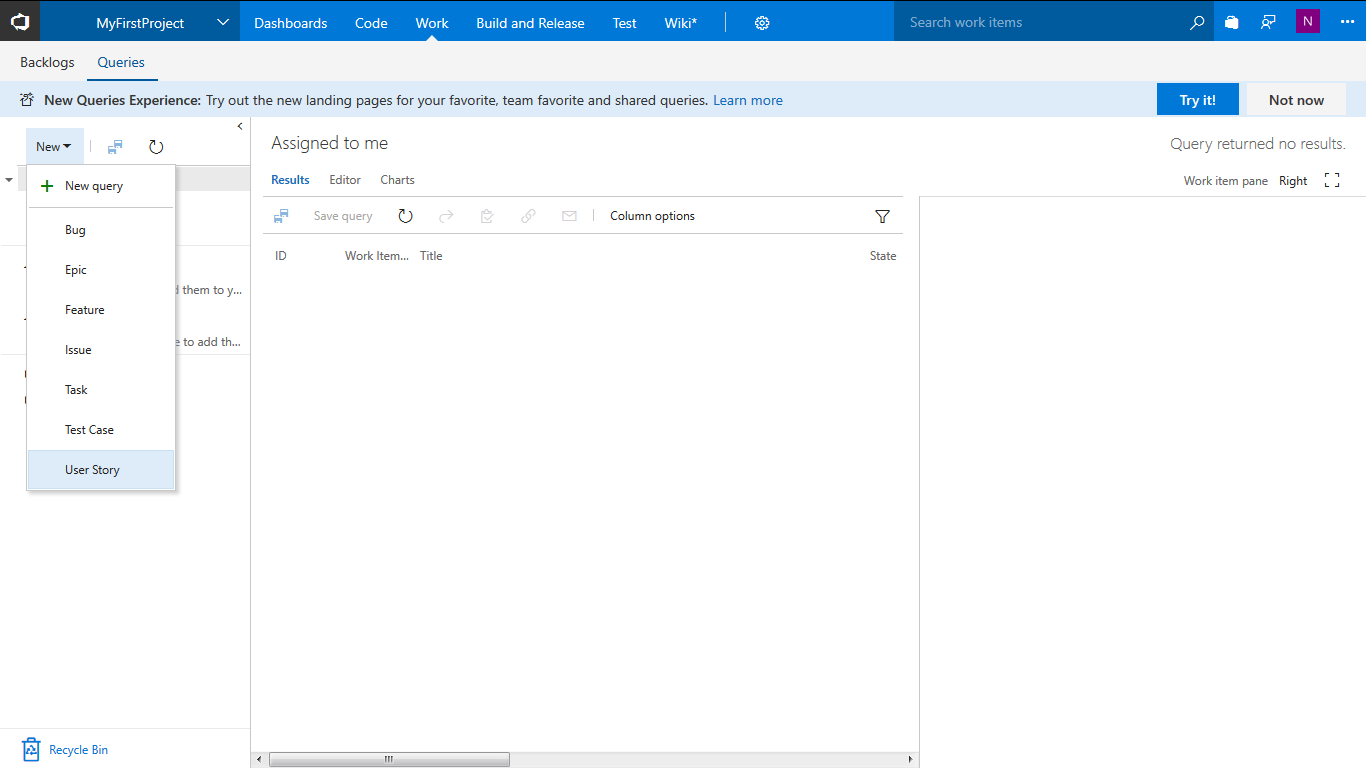
All the accounts added are shown and displayed in the dashboard.



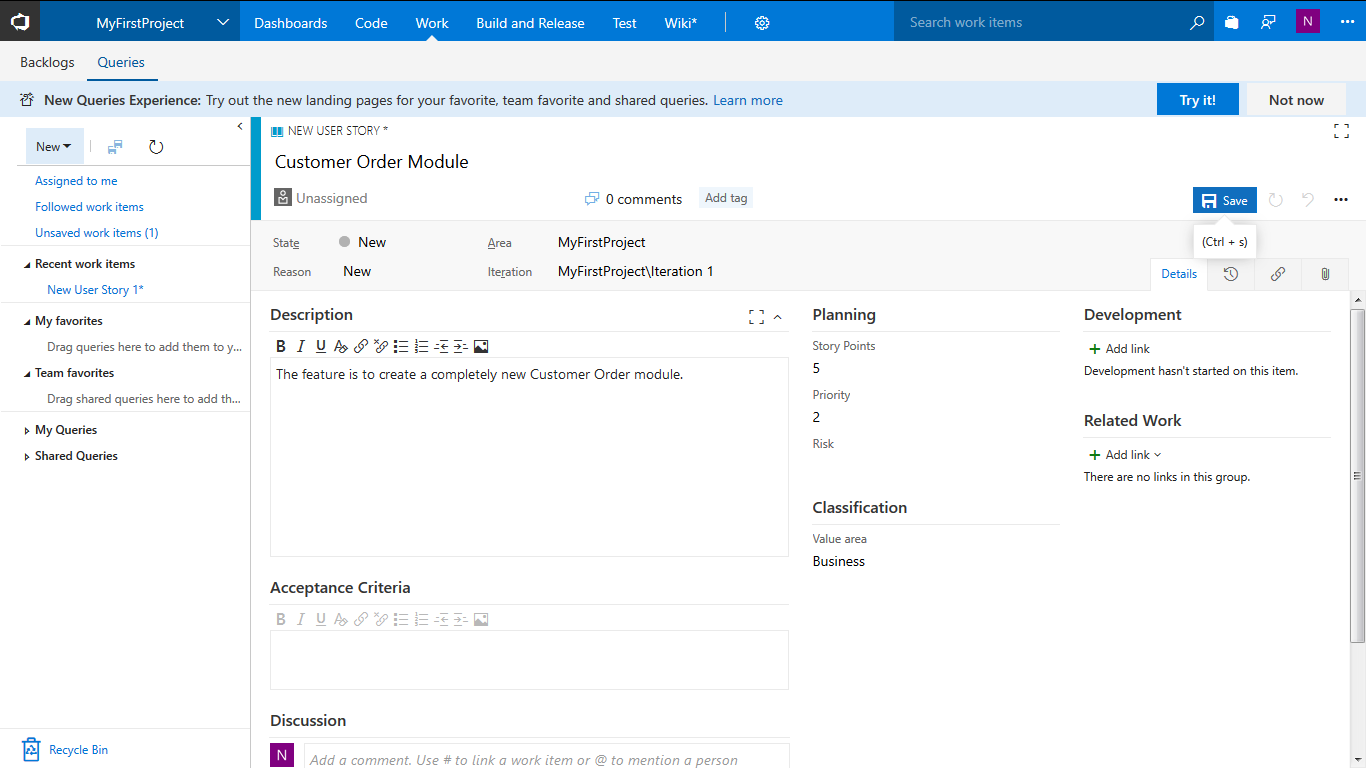
# Create User Story and Task

As in my earlier articles we will start by creating User stories and link Tasks to it. The tasks will typically need to be assigned to the developers for them to link to the code changes. These User Stories and Tasks will need to be added to Sprint cycle from a project planning perspective.

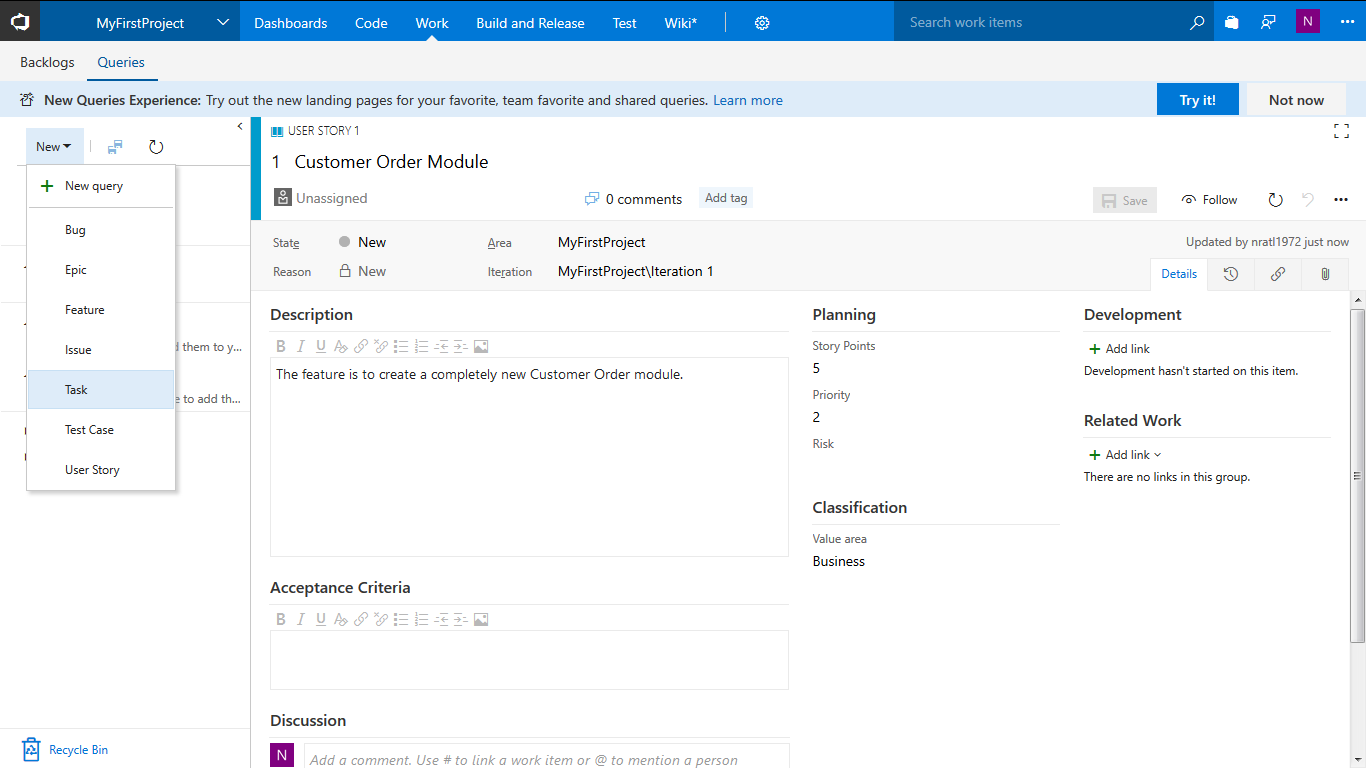
Using the **Work** menu select **Queries🡪New🡪User Story**



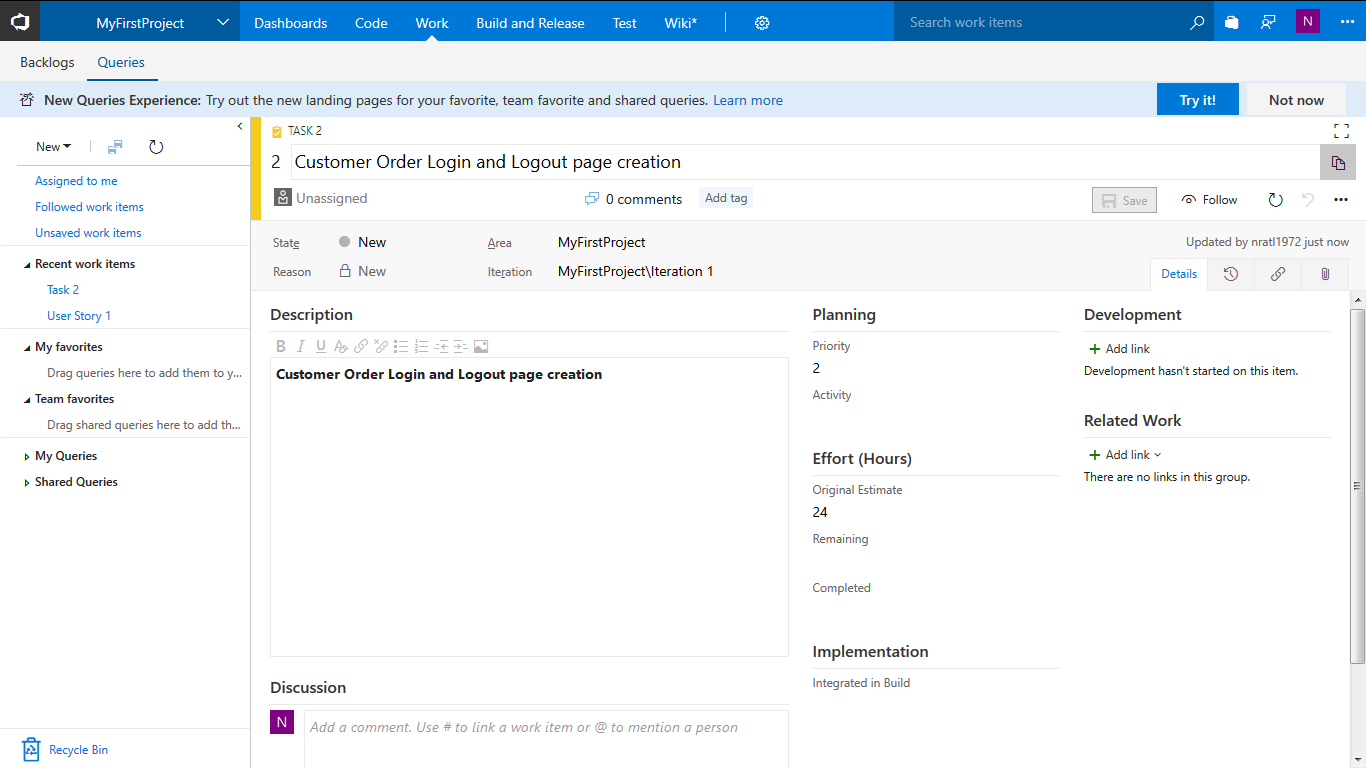
Enter a title and update other fields to the User Story. Save the User Story once all the fields are updated.



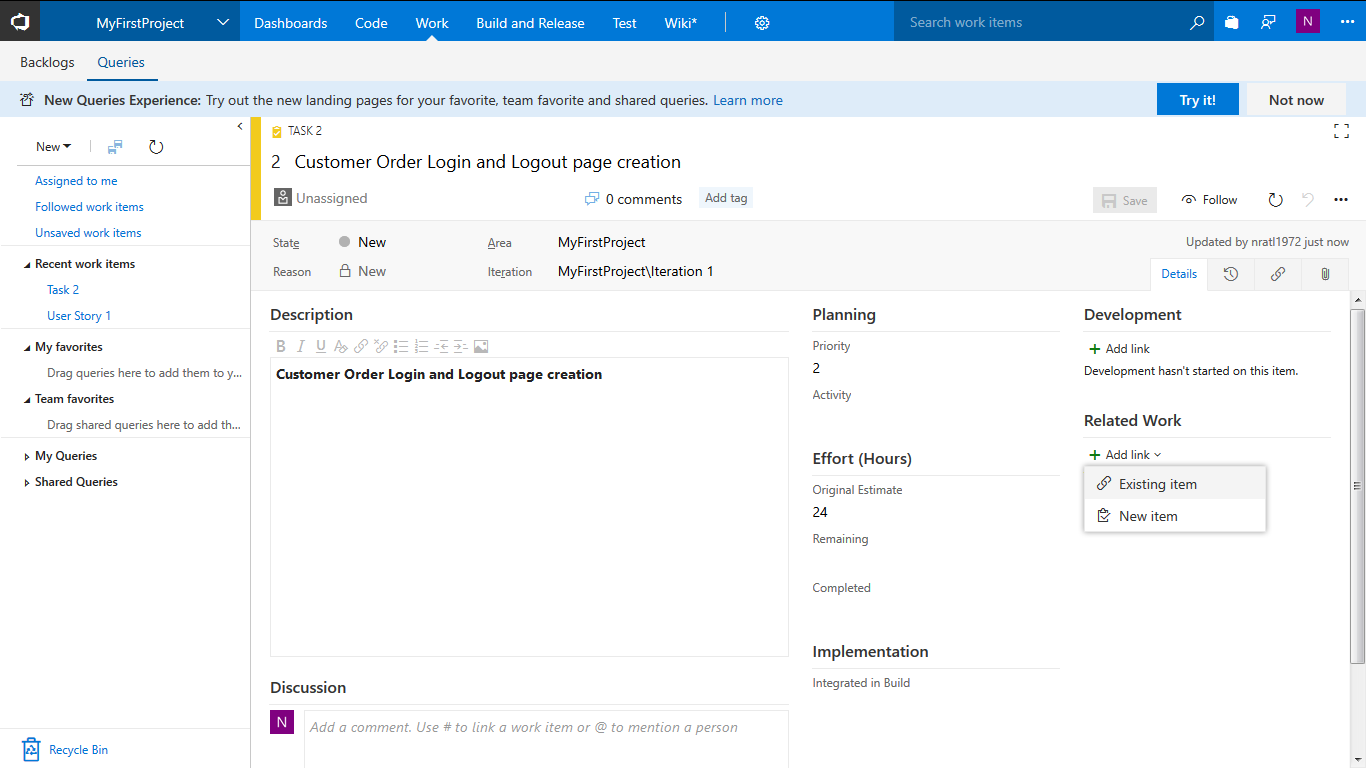
To create a Task work item and link to User Story select **New🡪Task**



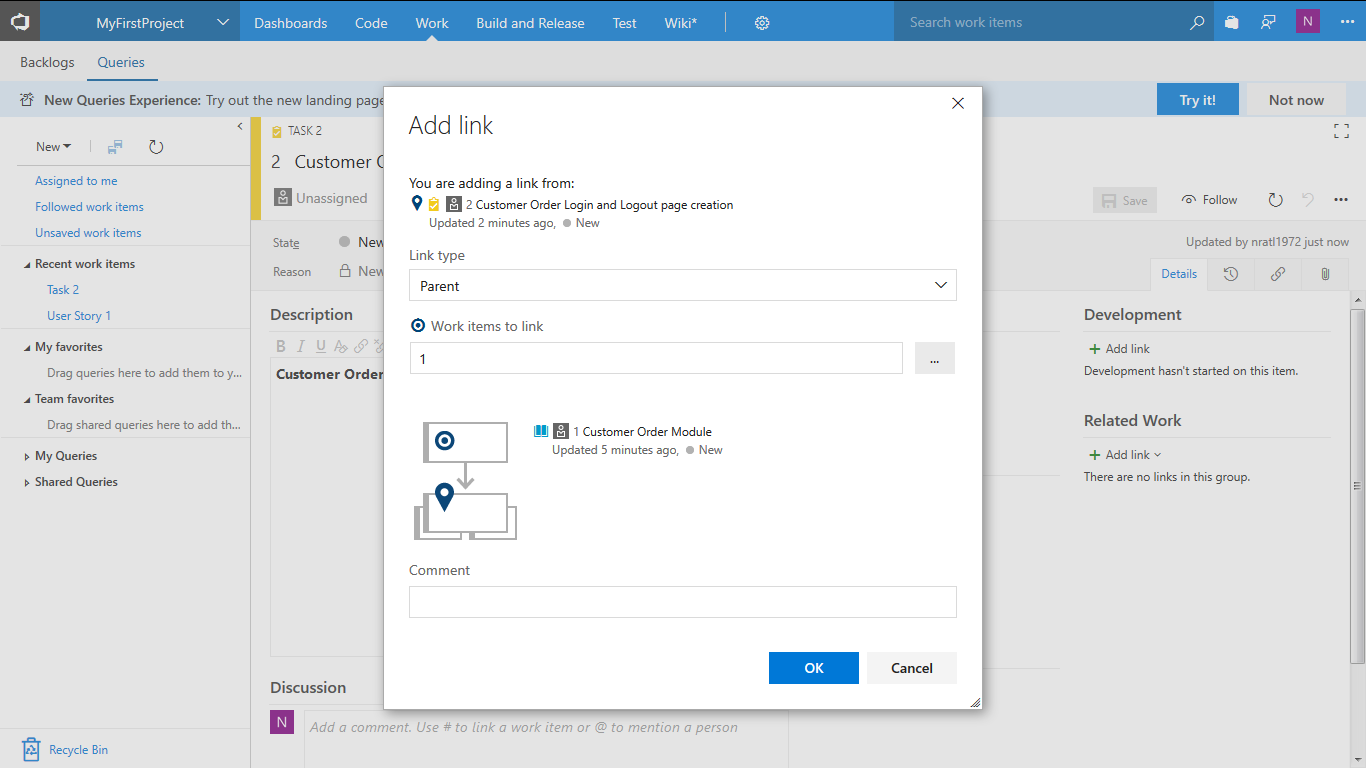
Enter a title for the new Task and save it.



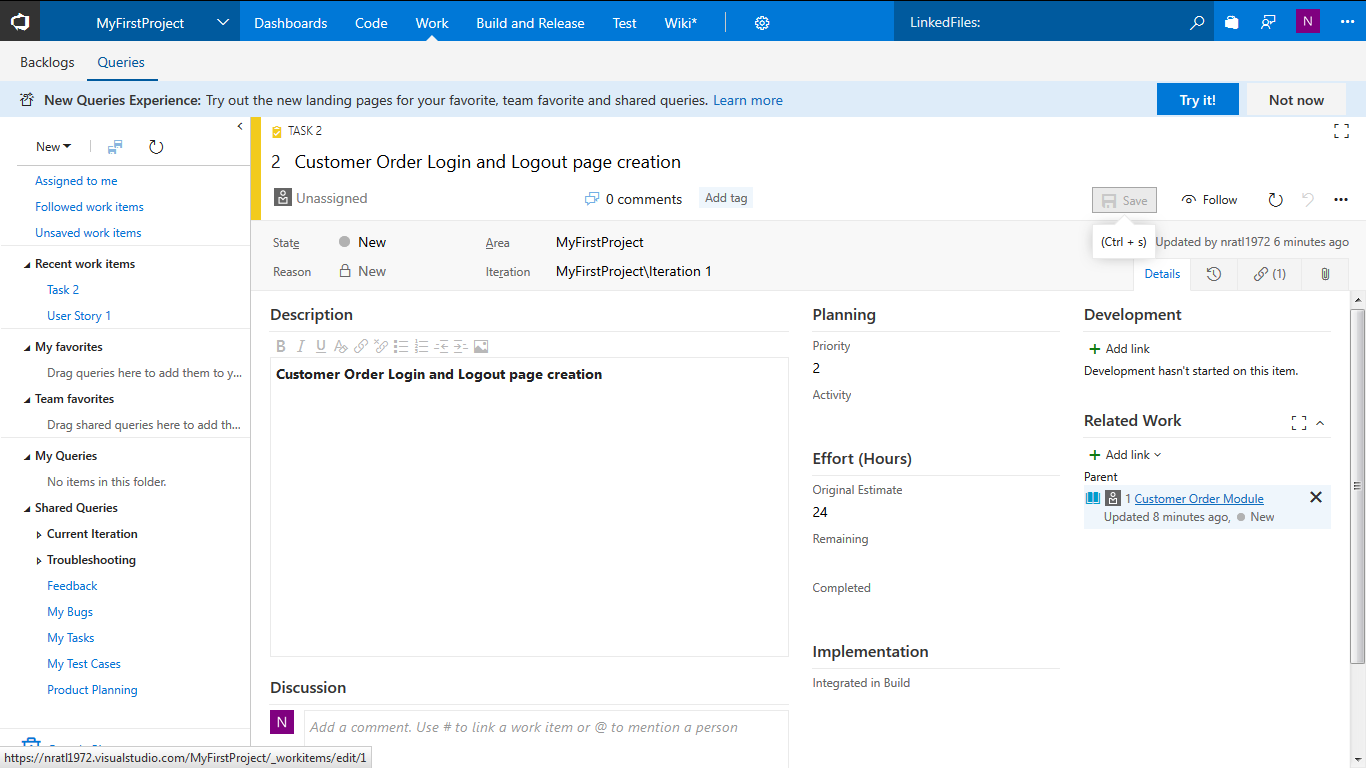
To link the user story to the task click on **“Related work: Add Link🡪 Existing Item”.** Add the User Story as Parent.



Enter the Work Item id of the User Story or some text from the title and click on OK.

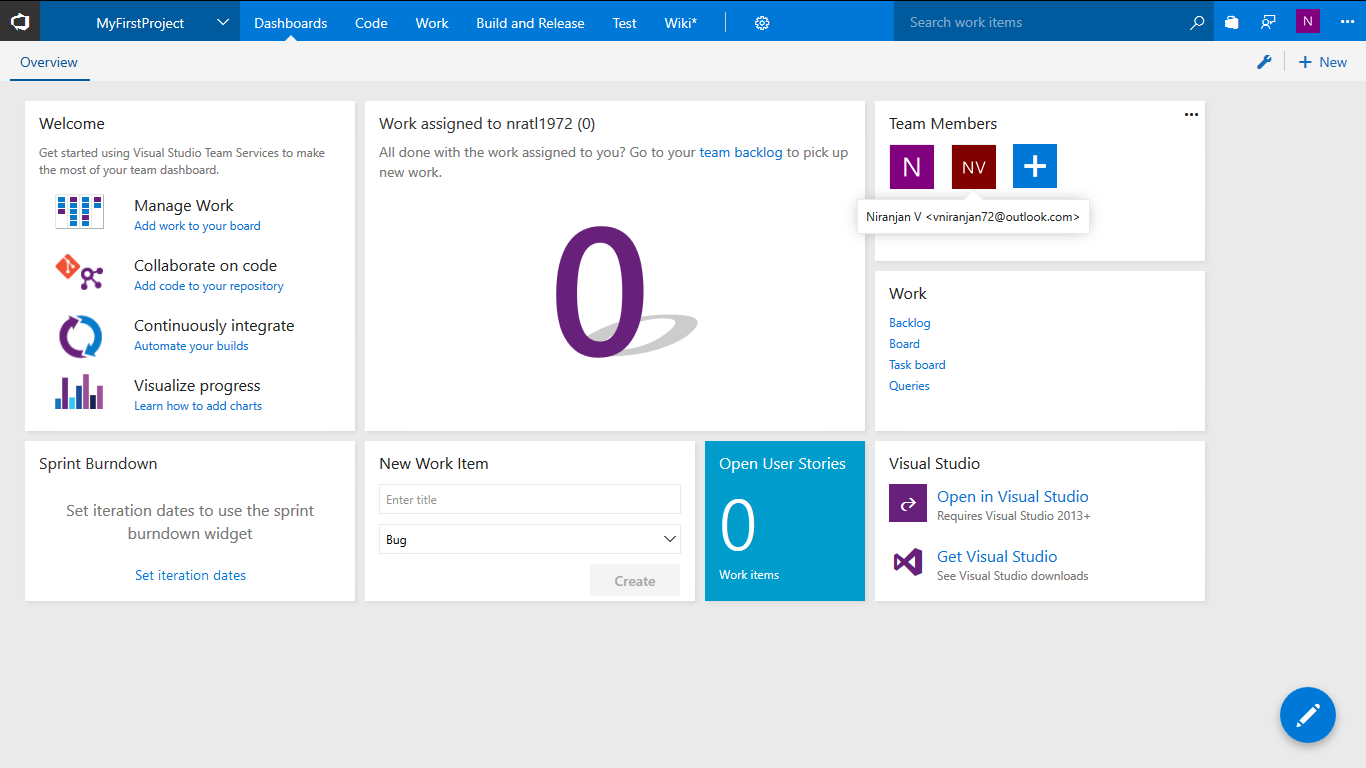


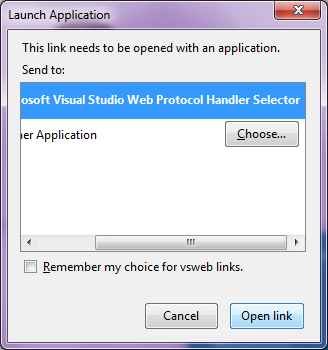
The link created to the User Story is shown under “**Related Work**”



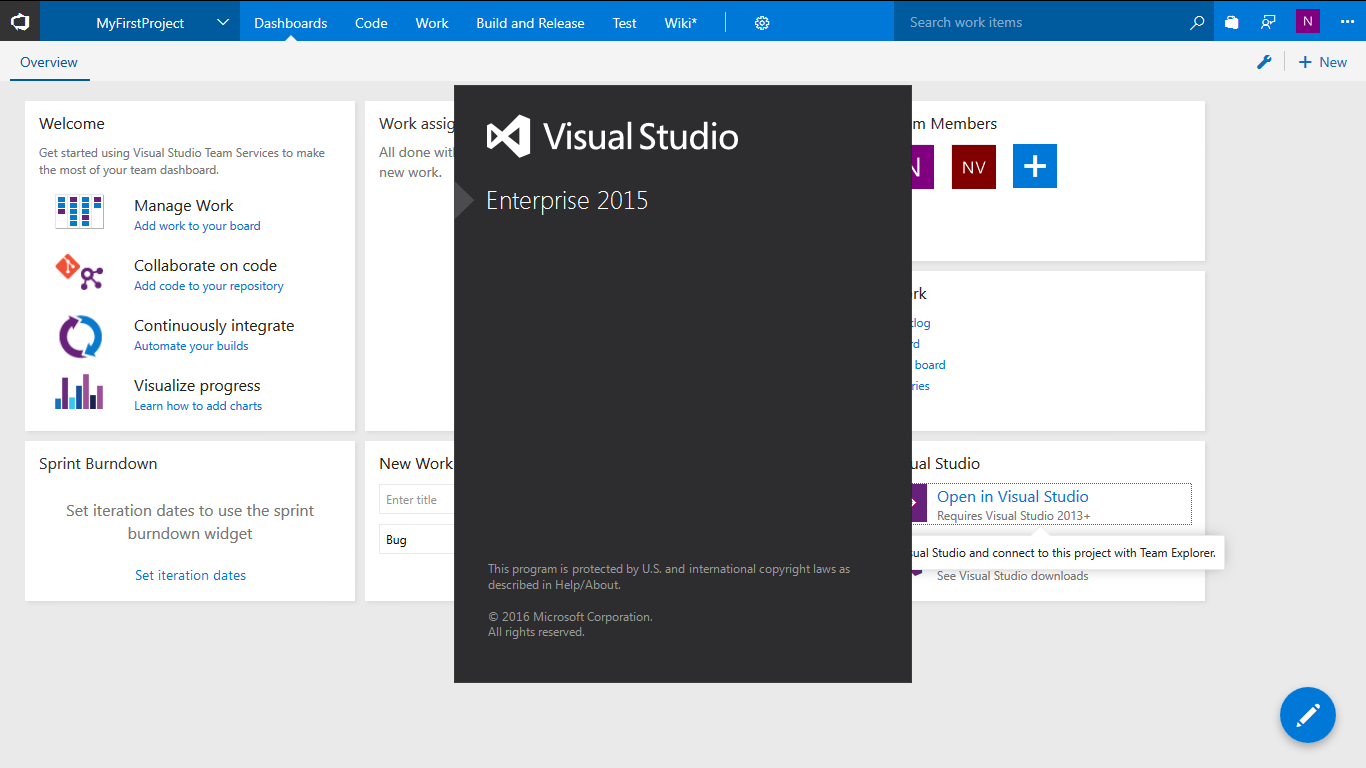
# Open the Project in Visual Studio

To start developing the User Story you will need Visual Studio.NET 2015/2017 installed on your local machine. The source code will need to be shared to the TFVC repo. Click on **Open in Visual Studio**

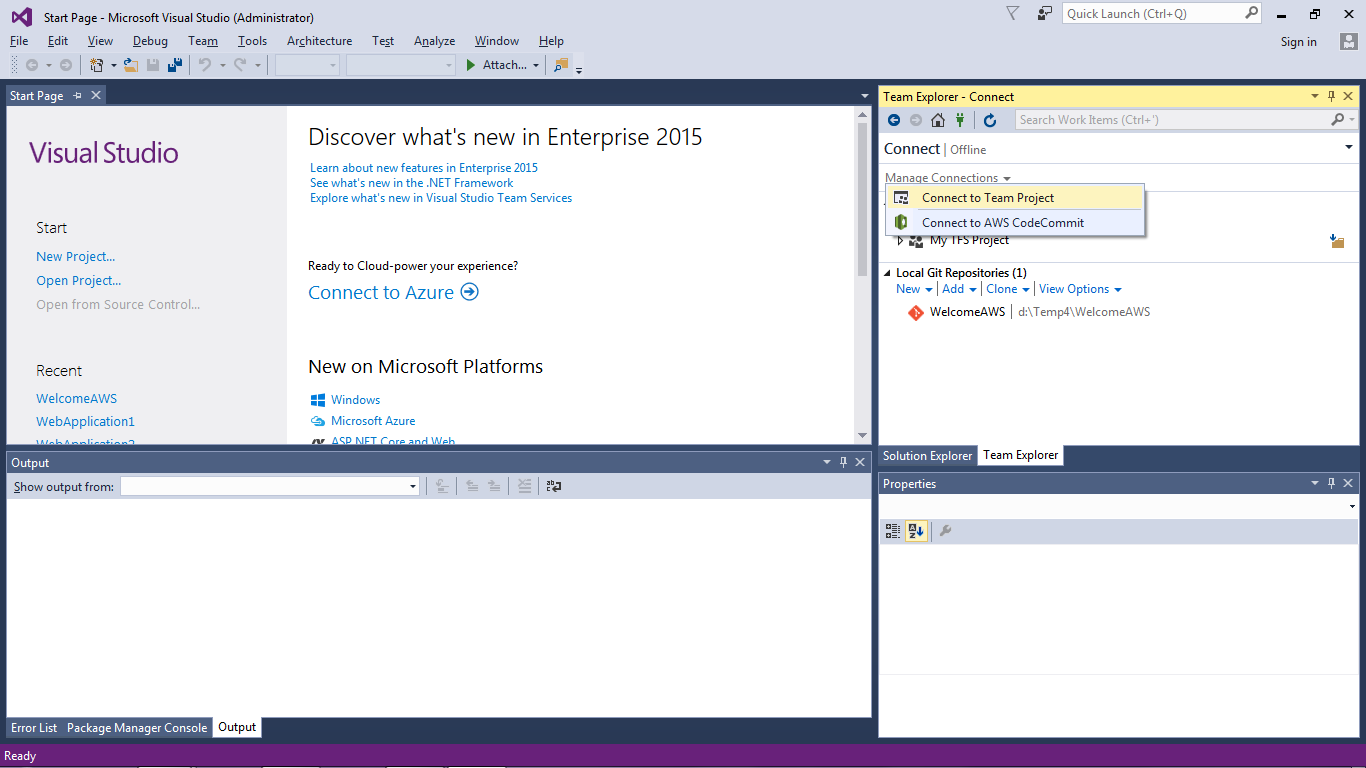




Click on **Open Link**



Once Visual Studio.Net is opened go to the **Team Explorer view** and click on **Manage Connections🡪Connect to Team Project**

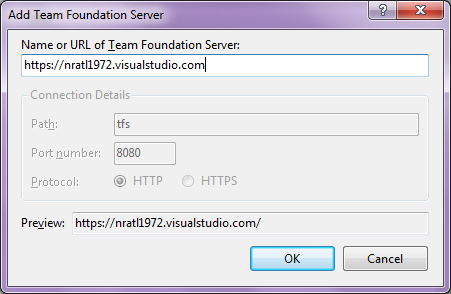


Click on Servers to add the VSTS URL which will then show up the projects created.

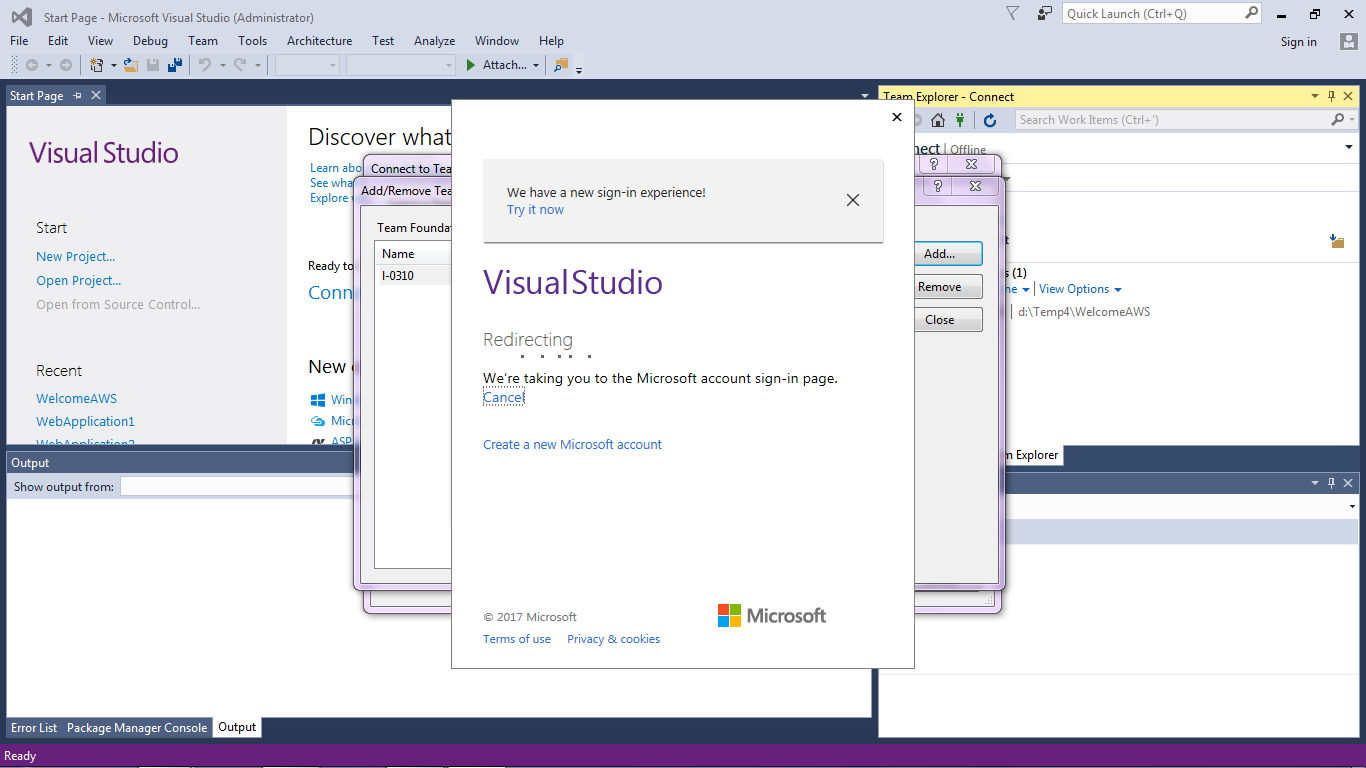


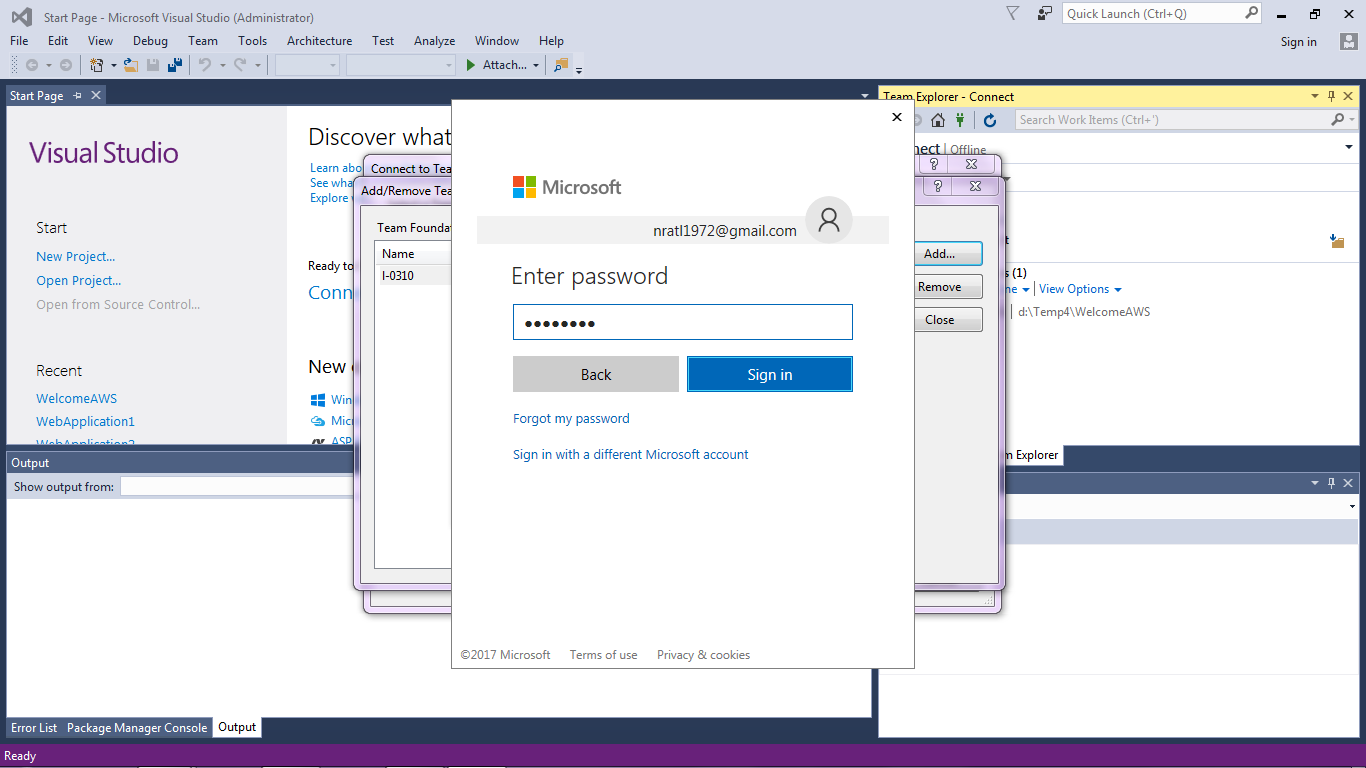
**Click on Add**

Add the VSTS URL and click OK

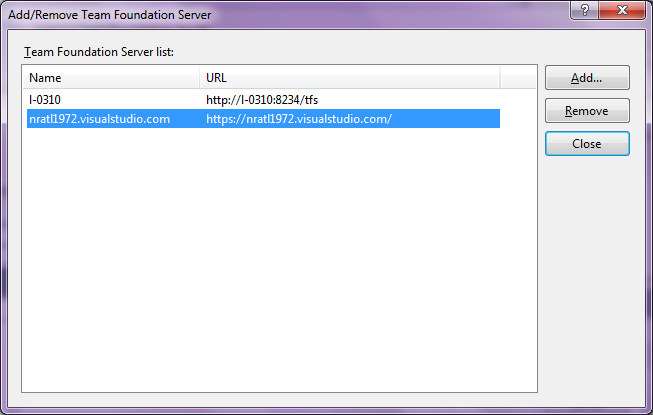


You will need to sign in with the VSTS account which you created earlier.

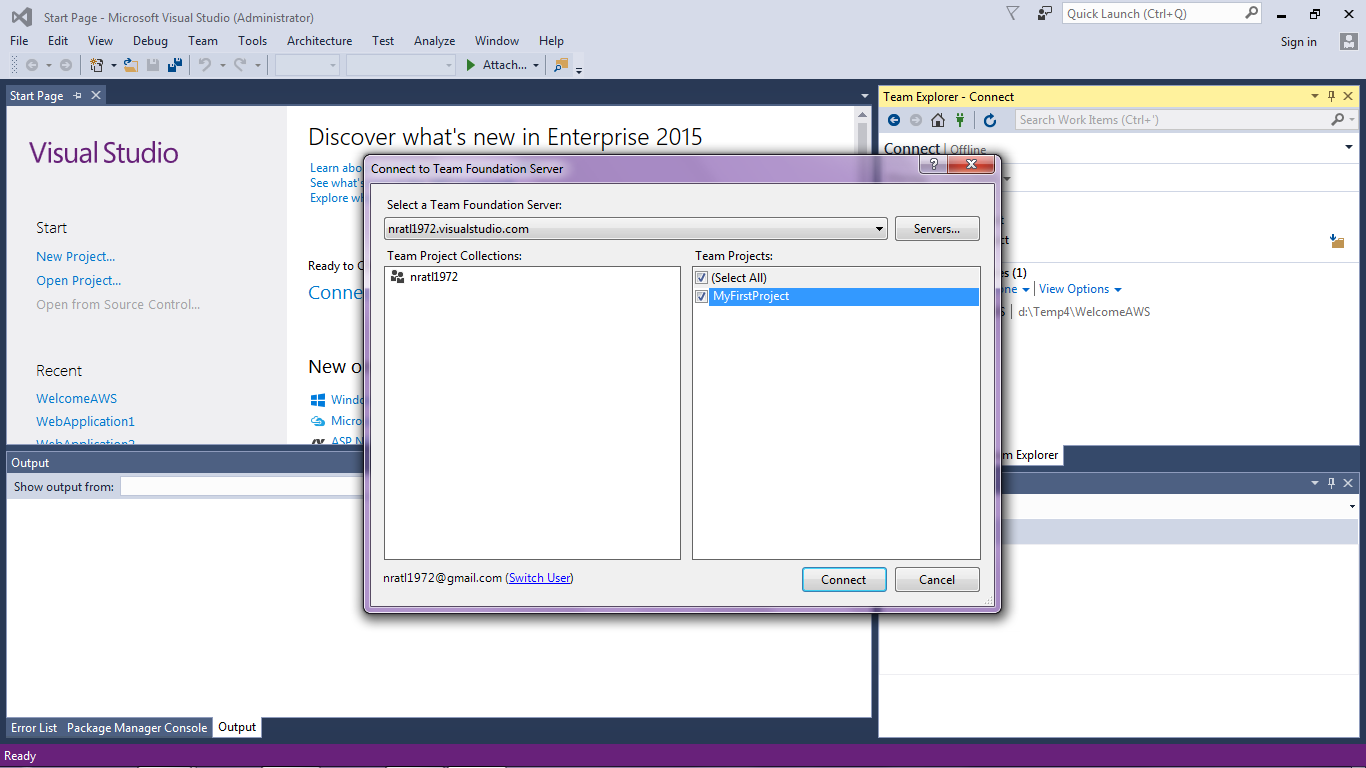




**Click Sign in**

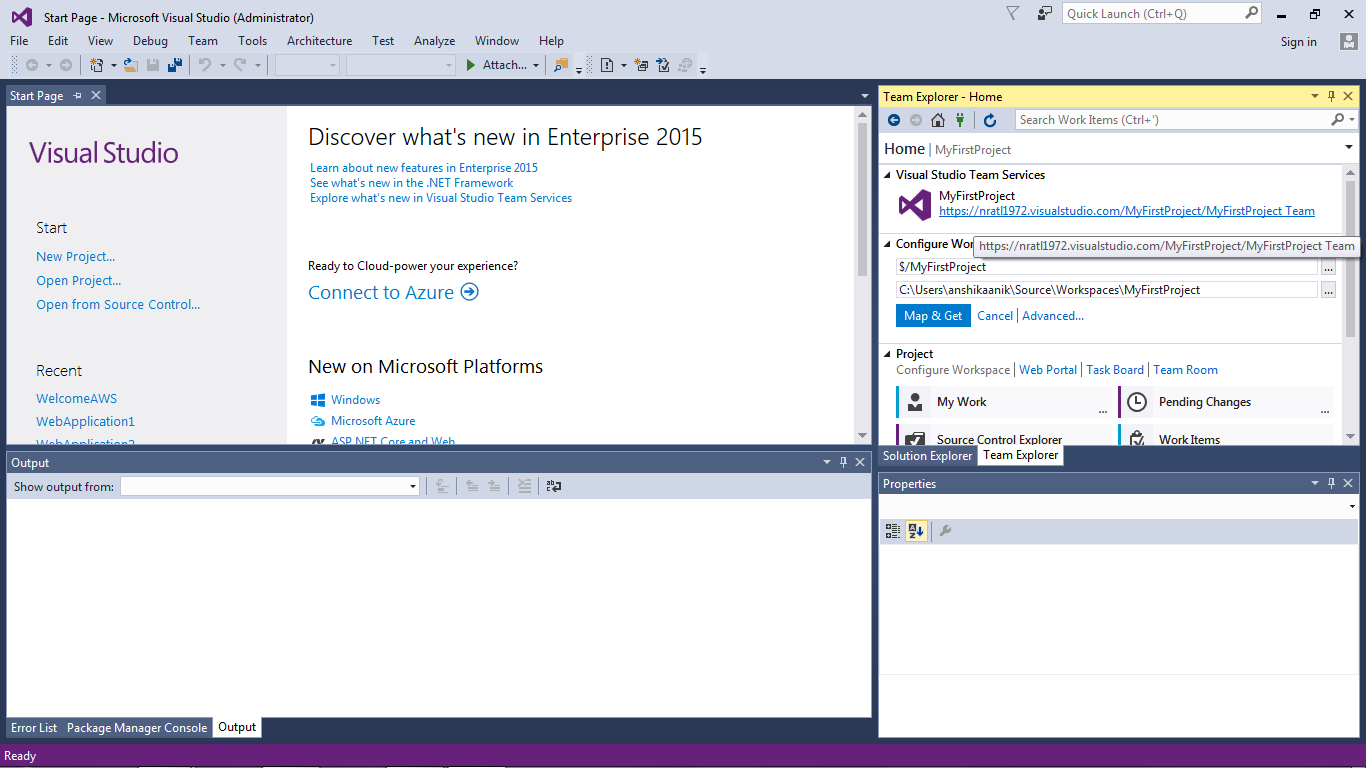


You can now connect to the VSTS project created earlier and start to share the source code to the TFVC repo.



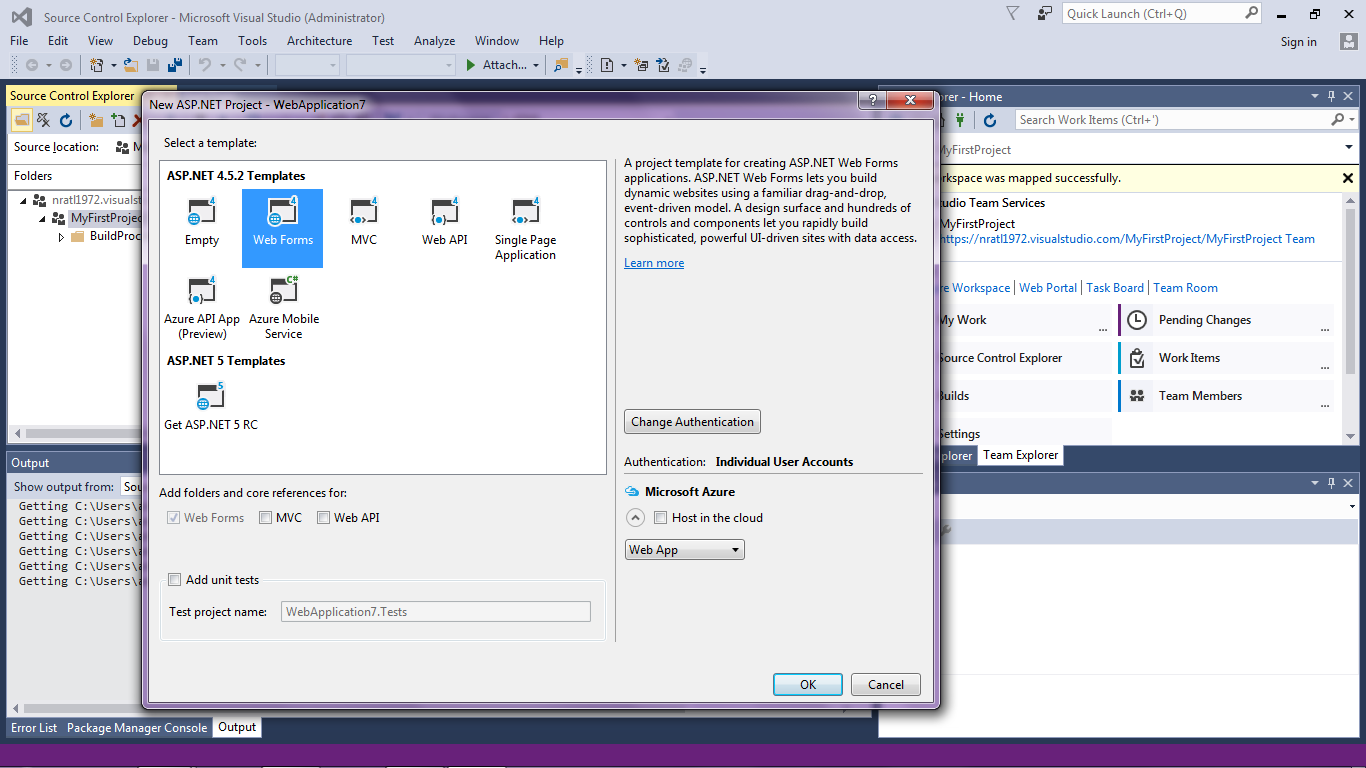
Click on **Connect**

The connected project from the VSTS connection is now shown.

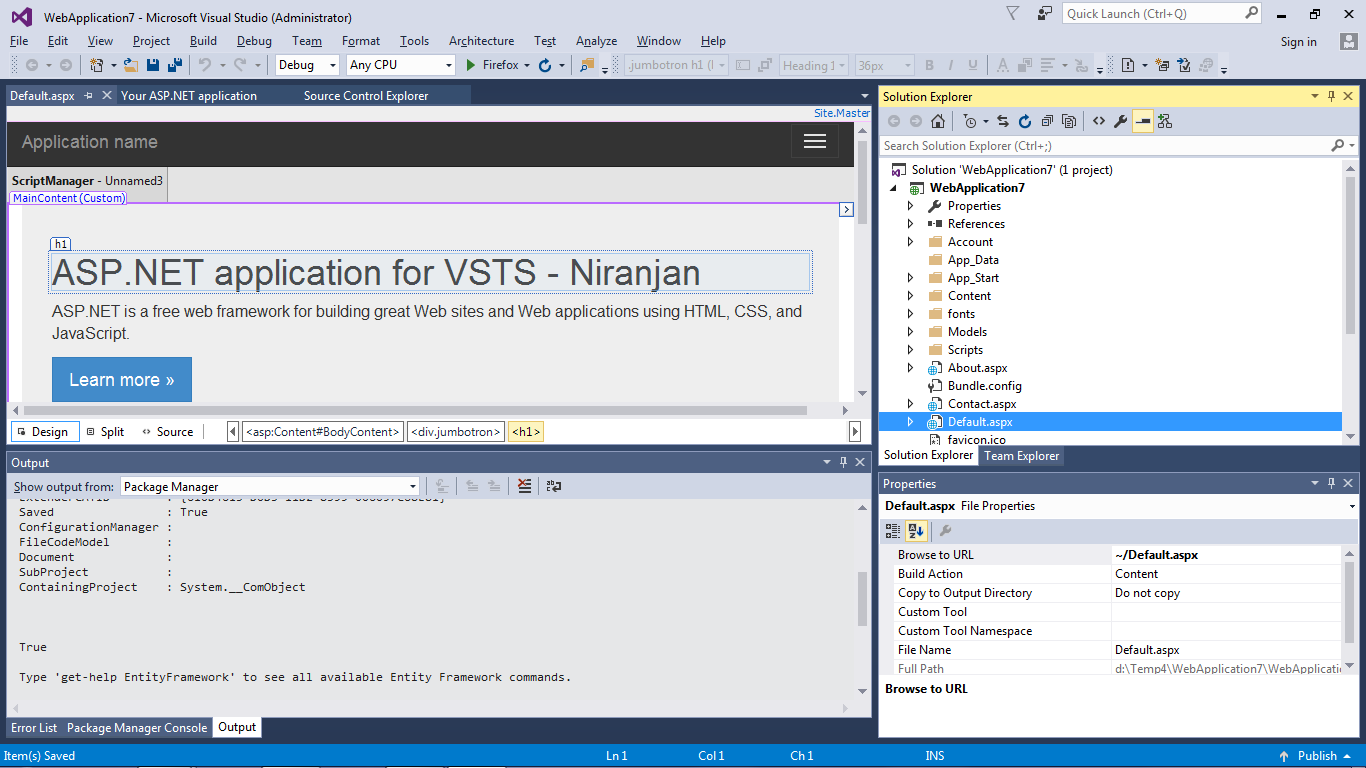


Create a new ASP.Net Web Application project and add to source control

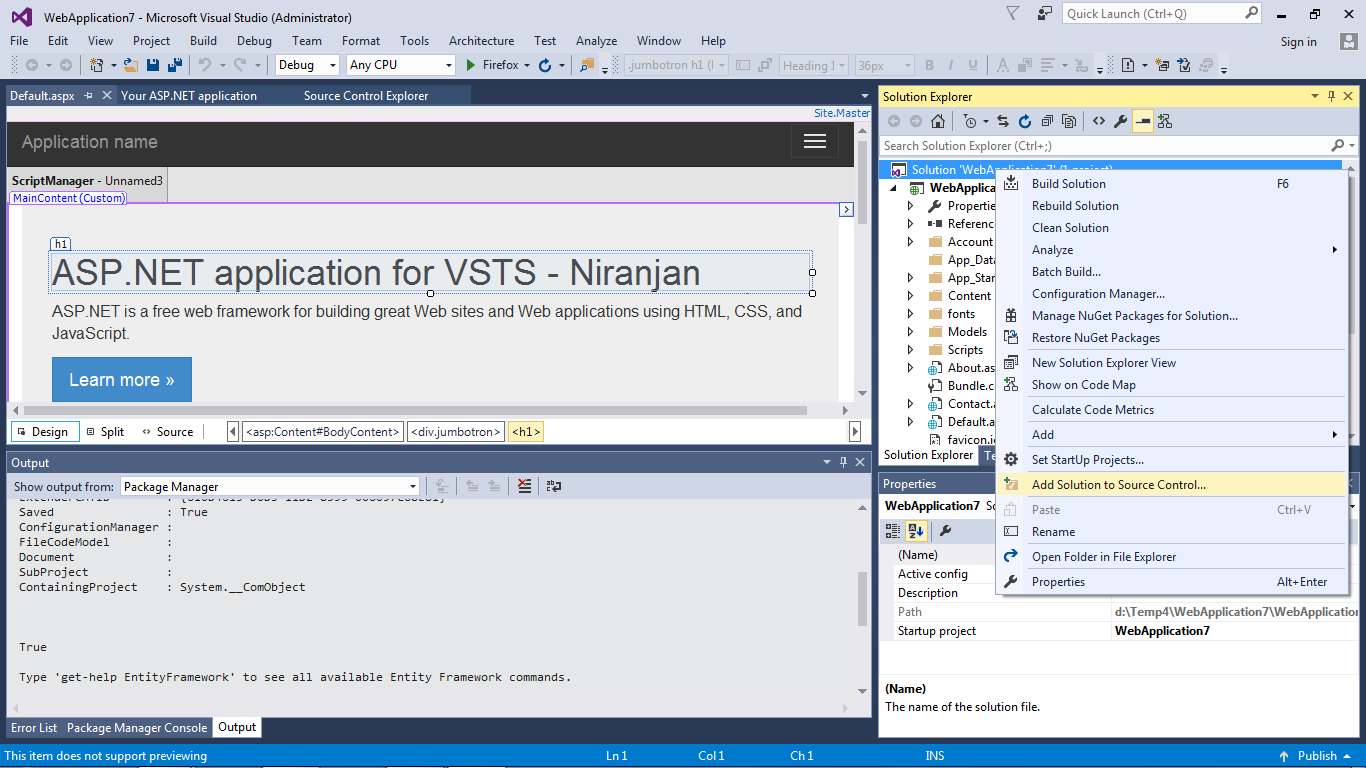




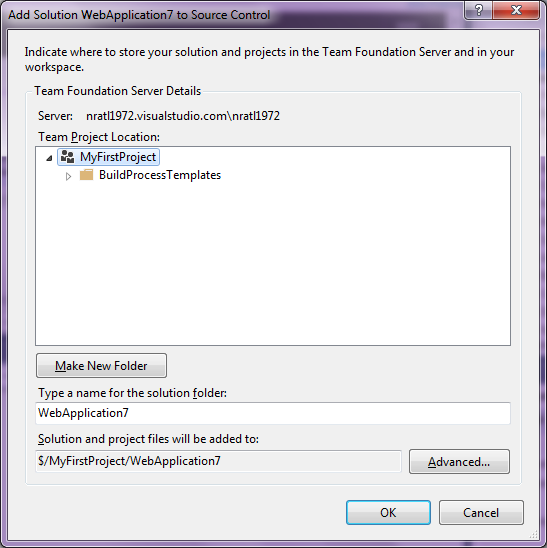
Modify the **Default.aspx** file so that the changes can be linked to the Task created once the solution is added to the source control



Add Solution to Source Control

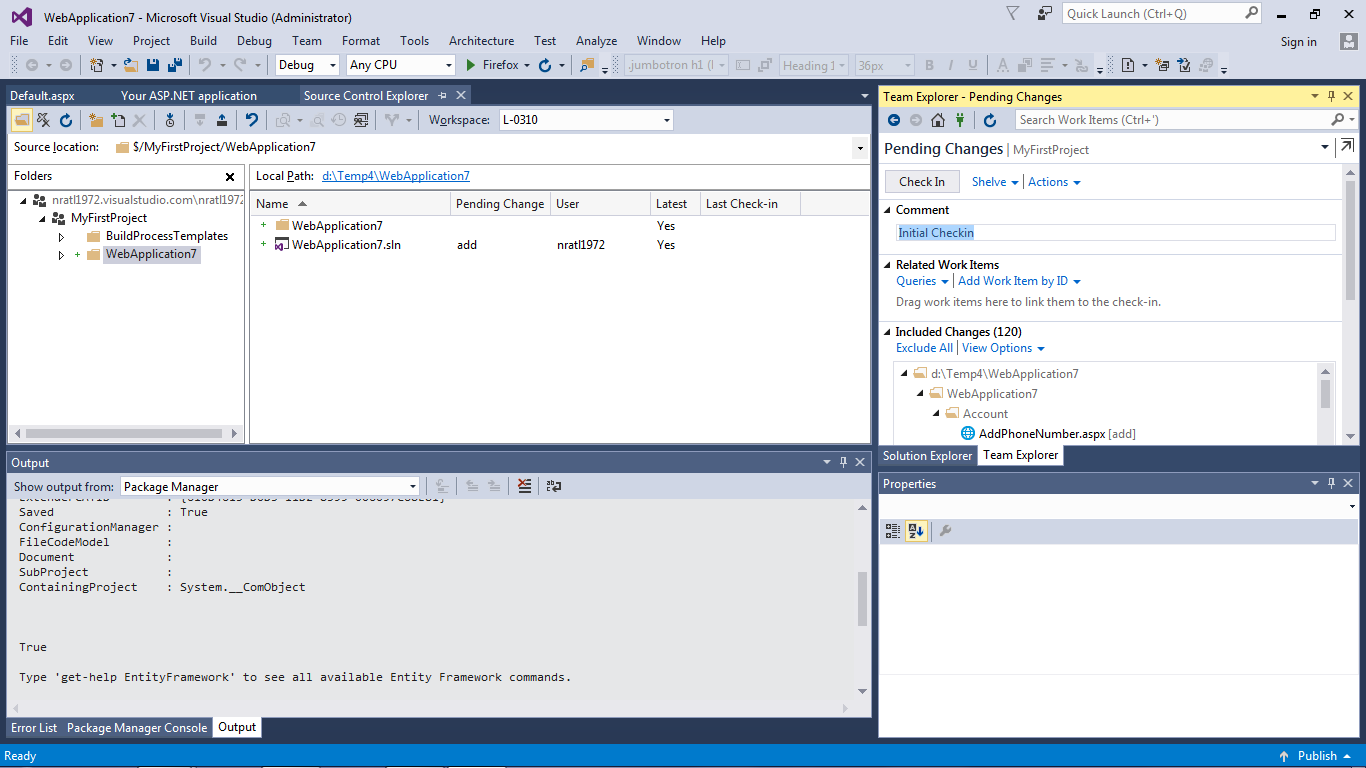


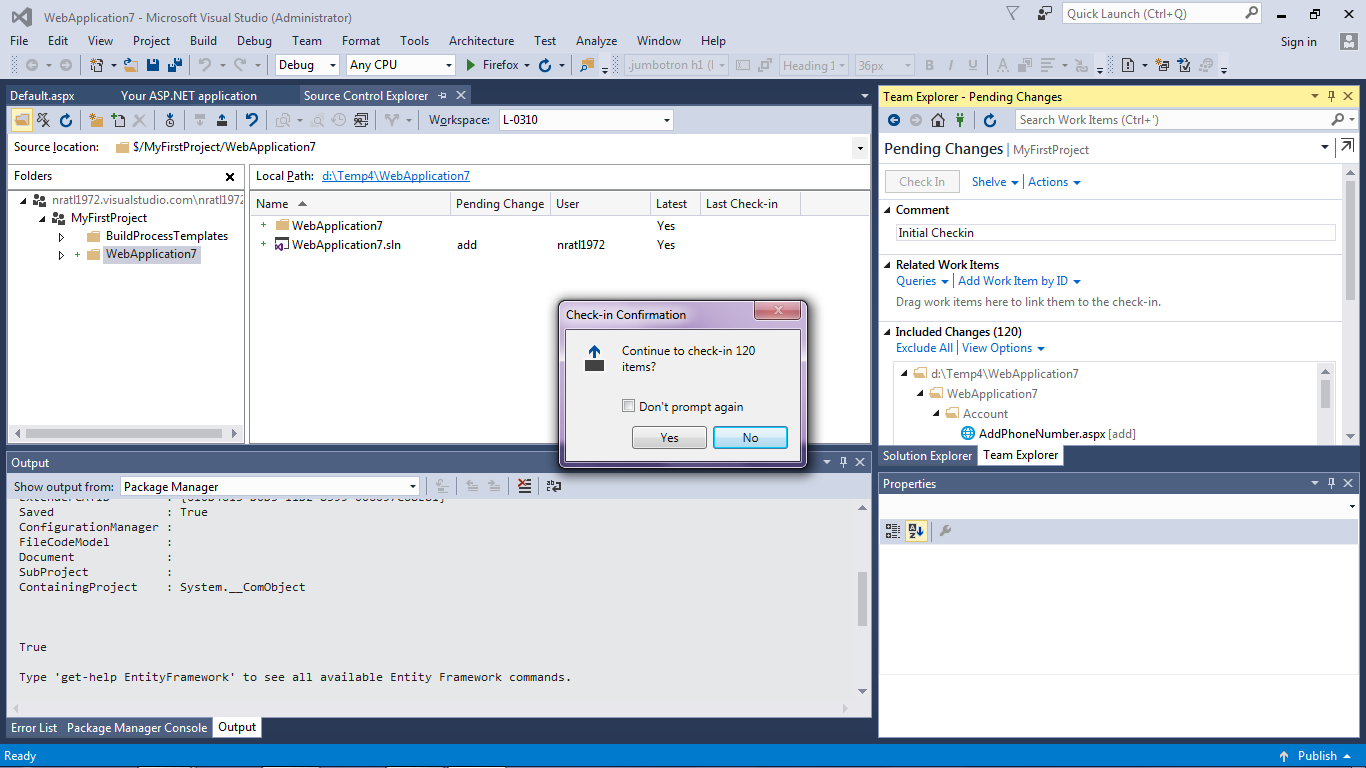
Select the VSTS project and click on OK to add the solution to TFVC repo

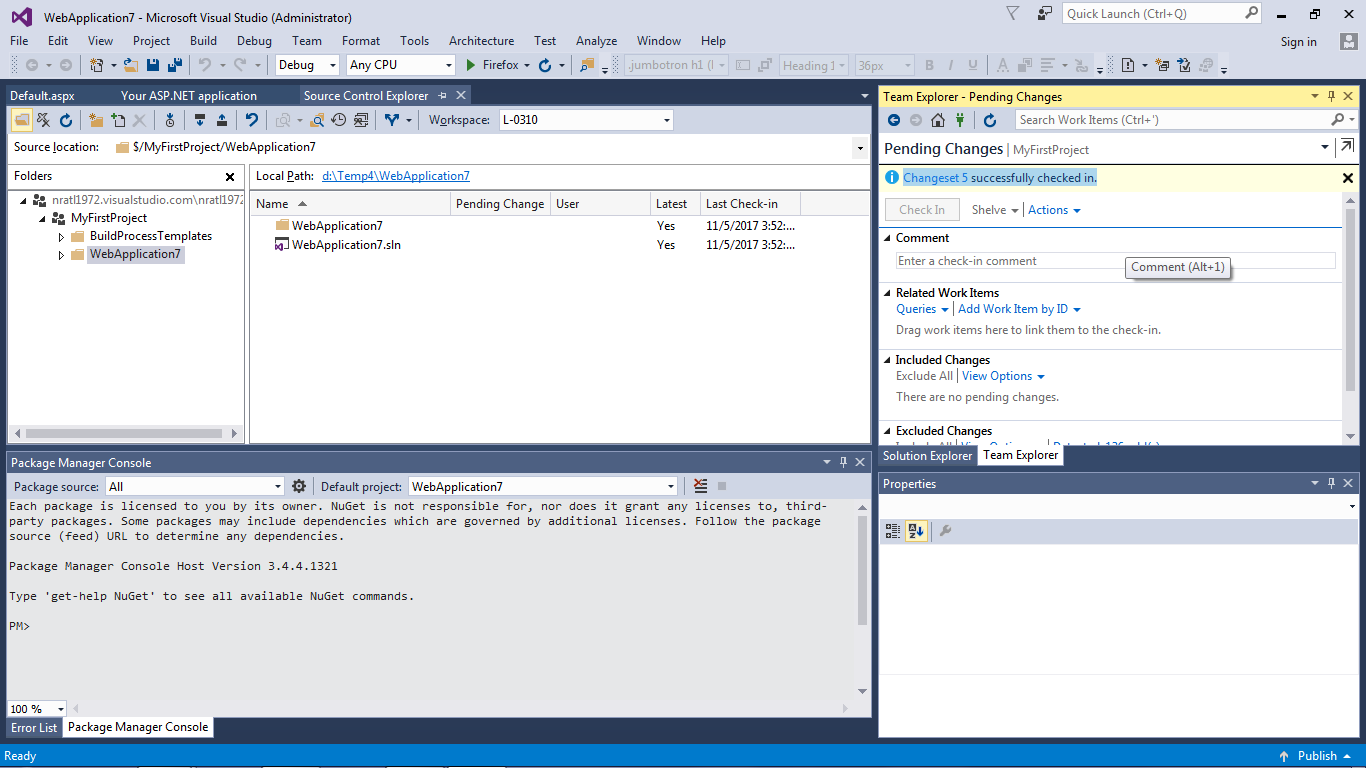


Click **Ok**

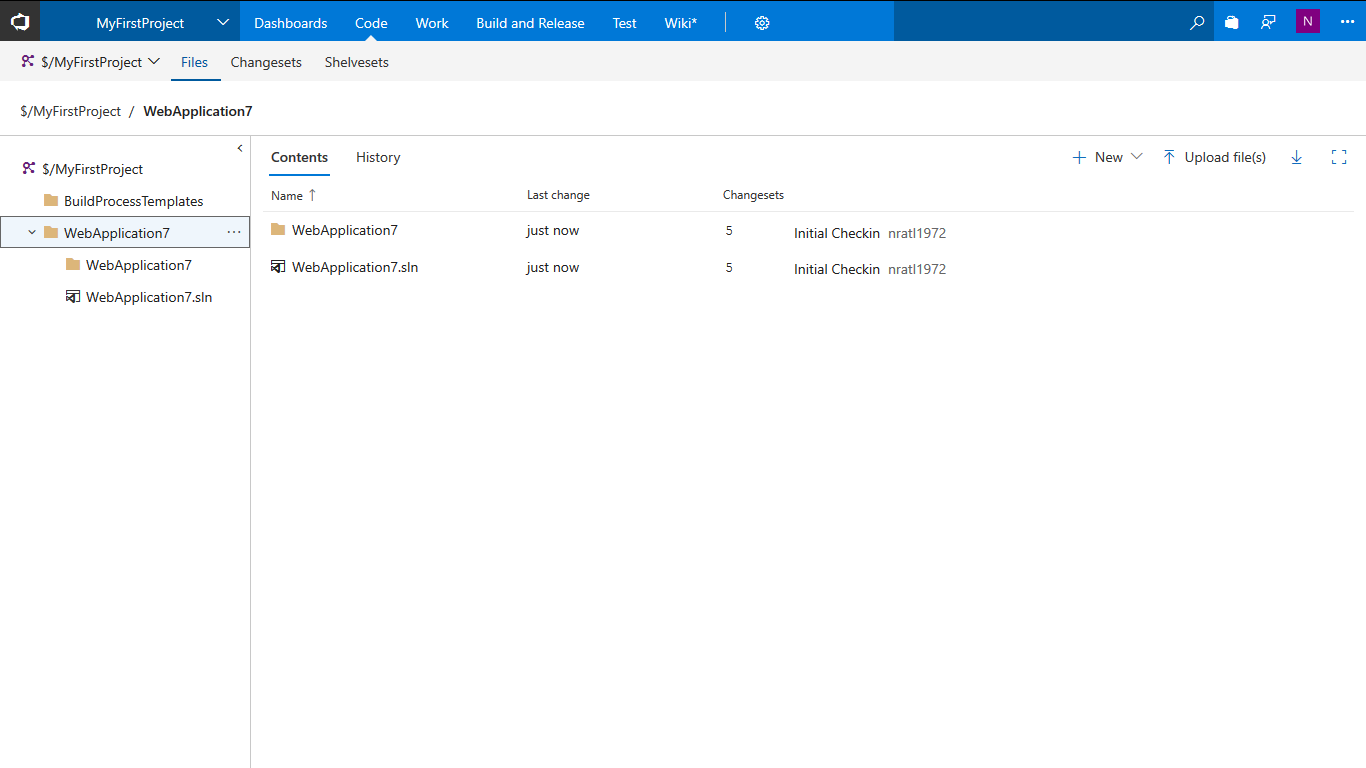
In Team Explorer go to Pending Changes and Check-in. Under Related Work Items you can also add the work item by ID or title to link the changes







The ASP.NET project is now under TFVC version control repository.



# Summary

In this short article you have seen how to get started with Microsoft VSTS which is a cloud ALM platform for the entire project team where absolutely no infrastructure is needed to manage the entire platform to store all your project related artifacts which include Work Items, Source Code, define Build and Release Definitions. This was meant only to be an introduction to the platform.

In my next article I will extend to show case how Devops (CI/CD) can be done using VSTS using Azure as the cloud portal for deployment.