

DLL Assembly Modding Handbook

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1 Introduction

C-Sharp Assemblies allow nearly every part of Shadows to be modded, and are how custom Gods, Agents, challenges and other complex content can be added. The process involves taking the game's own DLL Assembly, which lays out which classes and methods are available, importing it into Visual Studio, building a new set of classes and functions and exporting those back, also in DLL Assembly form. Once read in, the game will run the code alongside its own.

The code contains a set of hooks, allowing easy access to a number of core game systems, letting a mod easily and smoothly inject AI decisions, alter the map during map generation, update itself after the end of a turn or take action in a range of other situations. A sufficiently motivated modder could of course ignore most of these hooks, they are only provided for convenience, not as a mandatory framework to employ.

Due to the nature of game development, and limited resources, not all code will be documented, nor can support be provided. If this handbook and provided modding framework is useful you are welcome to make use of it, and if I can I will answer questions on discord, but much of the resources are simply provided

‘as is’. Certain parts of the code base are inelegantly constructed or named, due to changes during development, leading to a few quirks which modders will need to work around.

2 Major changes in naming

Various parts of the game are named differently internally than they are in-game.

1. **Modifiers/Properties** Modifiers are termed ‘properties’ internally. They all use the code prefix ‘Pr_’.
2. **Rituals/Unique Challenges** Any challenge which is held by the unit, rather than associated with a location or property is termed a ‘ritual’, and uses the prefix ‘Rti_’. This is mostly because the first unique abilities were all magical. It is also important to note that because the challenges all assume they have a location, the rituals also must be given the unit’s own location, even if this is not overly applicable.
3. **Heroes are Agents.** Units follow a naming prefix system, whereby all agents/heroes/acolytes are ‘agents’. They are prefixed UA, with agents being assigned class names starting in “UAE_” for “Unit Agent Evil”. Heroes are “UAG” for “Unit Agent Good” and Acolytes are “UAA” for “Unit Agent Acolytes”. Neutral evil agents, such as non-controlled Deep Ones, are “UAEN” for “Unit Agent Evil Neutral”. They all sub-class the associated class, to allow the game to identify them properly.

3 Overview

C-Sharp modding is intended to take place by overriding functions in subclasses. This is roughly how the game itself operates. Initially, the mod starts with the mod kernel, found in Assets.Code.Modding.ModKernel. If the DLL Assembly contains one, it will be loaded as a mod, and its various hooks called. These give you a point to inject your code into the various parts of the game.

You should create challenges, agents and other game concepts by subclassing the relevant super-class. These will then define a set of functions which you can employ, in a standard object-orientated way. The game will be able to recognise these, including saving them to disk and reloading the game and recognising that their logic depends on the modded DLL.

Using the save/load system is mostly handled automatically. Any variable marked as public will be saved. Critically, since these are being serialized, no reference to Unity concepts nor to large data structures such as images can exist. Sprites are to be referenced by a method, rather than saved directly on the object. The EventManager’s mod image system is intended to be used for this purpose, for example “return EventManager.getImg(“insect.iconDeadFish.png”);” being used to provide an icon Sprite for a property. If the Sprite were loaded

and saved directly as a variable on the property the save/load could not occur. **Storing a reference to ‘map’, the central object of the game’s data, is common and recommended, but storing a reference to the ‘world’, which serves as a link between UI elements, or to any UI element, is not possible and will break the save/load system.**

4 Setting up Visual Studio

This guide assumes that Visual Studio will be used for the production of C-Sharp DLLs. It’s possible that other IDEs support this process, but those are outside the scope of this work.

It might potentially, if you are using advanced features, also be necessary to download Unity, to extract the DLL assemblies relating to Sprites. Certain DLLs are automatically distributed in the compiled version, under **“ShadowsOfForbiddenGods_Data/Managed”**

. If others are needed, for example for UI changes, these will need to be obtained from your own Unity project under its own license. Legally, the DLLs can’t simply be uploaded to the modding repository, sadly. **It is recommended to make copies, not reference the game files directly**

You will need, at the very minimum, the game’s own code Assembly, which defines Shadows’s code structure (“Assembly-CSharp.dll”) and Unity’s main engine DLL, “UnityEngine.CoreModule.dll”, both of which are available at in the aforementioned ‘Managed’ folder, in the game files. Make a copy of these in an easily accessed location.

You will need the ‘.NET desktop development’ addon for Visual Studio to give you the required template to make a DLL, it is available via the Visual Studio installer.

Start a new Visual Studio C-Sharp project. It needs to be following the ‘class library’ template (You may need to obtain new templates if it is not pre-installed). **IT MUST BE A ‘A project for creating a C# class library (.dll)’, NOT ‘A project for creating a class library that targets .NET standard or .NET core’.** Trust me, I spent an entire day trying to figure out what was wrong when I clicked the wrong one here, learn from my mistakes.

With regards to targetted .NET Version, the test mod, the Insect God, uses .NET version 4.7.2 and it seems to work well.

After this, you need to reference the game’s DLLs, so your project can make use of its classes. Right click on ‘references’, in the top right (see Figure 2), then select ‘Add Reference’, then select ‘browse’ and find the DLLs (both Assembly-CSharp.dll and Unity Engine).

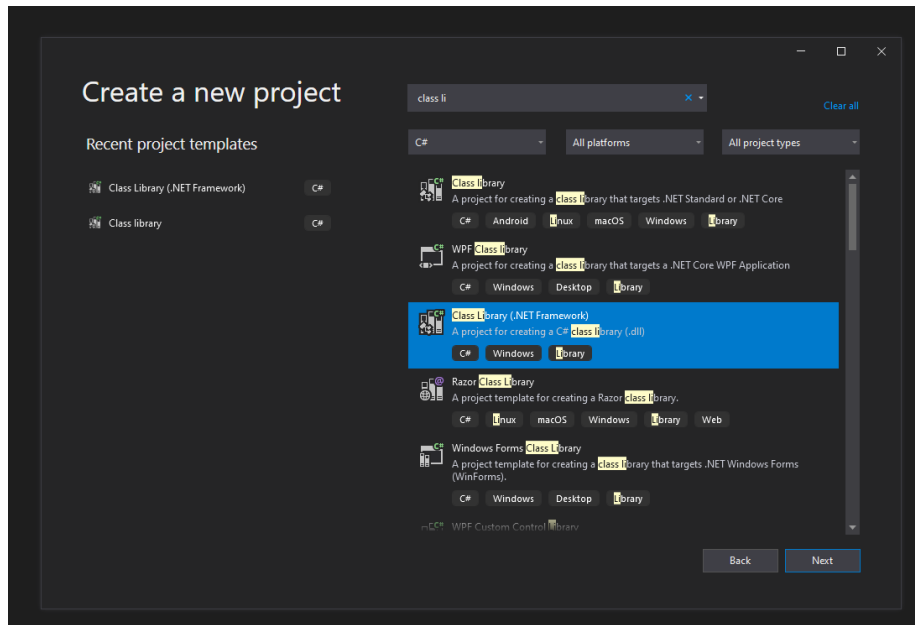


Figure 1: Select a class library template (note it must be the .dll one, not the standard .NET one)

Once added, you should be able to add a “using Assets.Code” to the top of your files, and begin to access Shadows’ code structure.

For your mod to work, you must implement a class which subclasses “Modding.ModKernel”.

When your mod is ready for initial testing, go to “build” in the top of the Visual Studio window, then ”build foo”, where ‘foo’ is your project name. The DLL will then appear your project’s “bin/Debug” folder.

For a minimal worked example, see the “CSharp_MinimumWorkedExample” folder in the modding github repository. It contains both the source code, and an example of the DLL placed into a mod. This mod folder can be dropped into the game’s “data/optional_data” folder, and it will run.

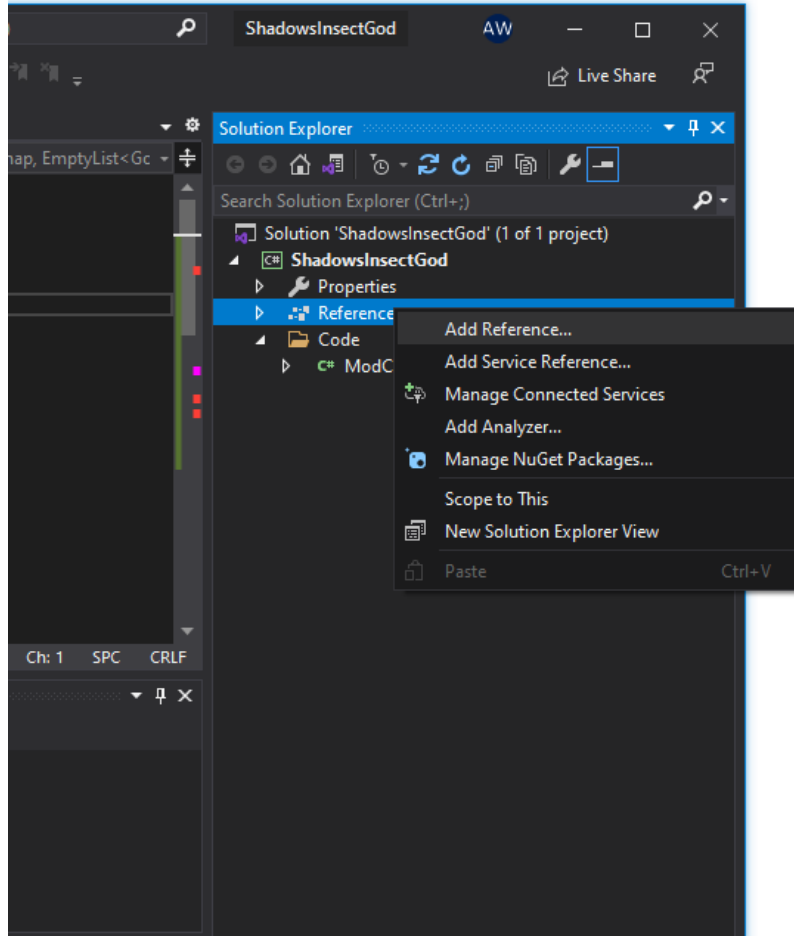


Figure 2: Add references to the DLLs

5 Useful methods

While not everything can be documented, some useful methods are presented below to get you started:

1. **Save/Loading** To save variables, note they need to be marked as public
2. **Eleven** This poorly named class holds the static reference to the random number generator, and a set of other utility functions. So named because the codebase was originally the eleventh attempt at getting a Unity project working, its RNG should be used if you want to exploit the map seed system (Although seeding your own RNG would also be viable)

3. **UNIFIED MESSAGE** These are the main message form presented to the player in the middle of the screen. They are the ones which have one or two people, units, locations or societies, and have a go-to button under each, and a ‘dismiss all of this type’ button. These are accessible from the map object (which will also store and handle the player-chosen type dismissal).

Example usage is: `map.addUnifiedMessage(personA, personB, "Infection", "A person has infected another with the Ophiocord fungal infection", "PERSON", "INFECTS", "OTHER");`

The two arguments are the objects referenced. They can be one of: PERSON, UNIT, LOCATION, SOCIETY. The second one can be null. The third argument is the title of the message, the fourth is the message itself. The fifth, last argument in this example, is the code used to dismiss messages of a given type. By convention it is all upper-case. If the player dismisses this message using the “dismiss all of this type” button, all messages with this code will be silenced. This is automatic, you do not need to perform any checks of your own to see if a given message type is dismissed. Note there is an optional boolean argument. This is used purely for debugging purposes, and indicates whether the message will still appear in automatic mode. It can be ignored in most cases.

4. **Custom Cheats** Pressing Left_Shift + Backspace will bring up a tiny text prompt in the top right. This allows you to enter cheat commands for testing your mods. You can override the “onCheatEntered” method in the modKernel to intercept your custom cheats, and enter debug commands you need.
5. **Custom Tags** You can add your own concepts which the AI can gain or lose preference for by calling two static methods on the Tags class. Do this before the game is generated if you want pre-existing characters to have preferences when the world starts. Adding an enemy (generic term, could be a friendly race if you want) is easily done, by calling `Tags.addTagEnemy("name")`. This will return an integer, which you can include in your tags for different units/items/people to get the AI preferences to recognise them. Adding broader personality concepts, like the existing ‘ambition’ for example, requires you to also include adjectives to describe the different facets. For example, you could add “technophobe”, by calling `Tags.addTagConcept("technology", new string[] { "luddite", "technophobe", "tech-enthusiast", "transhumanist" });`. These four descriptions then reflect hate/dislike/like/love of the term.

6 Adding commands for access via JSON events

7 List of cheats with their required arguments

Cheat commands can be entered by pressing `left_shift + backspace`. This will open a tiny window in the top right, where a command, or a command + a value (such as “skip 25” to skip 25 turns) can be entered. These are undocumented, and may crash the game if used incorrectly. They are provided as-is, to be used only when you have no unsaved changes which may be lost. Often the issue will be that they required something to be selected and either nothing was, or the wrong type of thing was (for example ‘shadow’ requires a unit or human settlement to be selected). They are provided to potentially assist with modding if you can find ones which help you.

1. Simple Command: power
2. Simple Command: testsave
3. Simple Command: testload
4. Simple Command: endless
5. Simple Command: automatic
6. Simple Command: testCast
7. Simple Command: ghastr
8. Simple Command: ravenous
9. Simple Command: silence
10. Simple Command: shadow
11. Simple Command: halfshadow
12. Simple Command: 99shadow
13. Simple Command: nationShadow
14. Simple Command: testMsg
15. Simple Command: plague
16. Simple Command: music
17. Simple Command: playback
18. Simple Command: keys
19. Simple Command: fishCurse
20. Simple Command: throughTheirEyes
21. Simple Command: wastingSouls

22. Simple Command: controlFont
23. Command with numeric value: xp
24. Simple Command: 100
25. Command with numeric value: political
26. Simple Command: hateOrc
27. Simple Command: insanity
28. Simple Command: geomancer
29. Simple Command: destroyAll
30. Simple Command: necromancer
31. Simple Command: orctype1
32. Simple Command: orctype2
33. Simple Command: orctype3
34. Simple Command: orctype4
35. Simple Command: orctype5
36. Simple Command: testCustomChallenge
37. Simple Command: windowedMode
38. Simple Command: holy
39. Simple Command: blood
40. Simple Command: madout
41. Simple Command: massInsanity
42. Simple Command: hateLocalLord
43. Simple Command: massDisdain
44. Simple Command: internationalChaos
45. Simple Command: corrupt
46. Simple Command: murderer
47. Simple Command: heroesHateMe
48. Simple Command: removeFaith
49. Simple Command: rotateFaith

- 50. Simple Command: holyInf
- 51. Simple Command: daughter
- 52. Simple Command: firstDaughter
- 53. Simple Command: iasturArmy
- 54. Simple Command: maxLevel
- 55. Simple Command: armsRace
- 56. Command with numeric value: gainKnowledge
- 57. Simple Command: testTrade
- 58. Simple Command: opposition
- 59. Simple Command: vampire
- 60. Simple Command: toHero
- 61. Simple Command: fixate
- 62. Simple Command: testSpread
- 63. Simple Command: aggro
- 64. Simple Command: blockme
- 65. Simple Command: addmenace
- 66. Simple Command: add100menace
- 67. Simple Command: addprofile
- 68. Simple Command: add1profile
- 69. Simple Command: hateMe
- 70. Simple Command: mammonTrade
- 71. Simple Command: dark empire
- 72. Simple Command: halfall
- 73. Requires a unit to be selected. Takes the form “testEventsFrom FOO” where ‘FOO’ is your mod prefix. Opens all events with the selected unit as context
- 74. Simple Command: alliance
- 75. Simple Command: darkCrusader
- 76. Simple Command: enshadowNation

- 77. Simple Command: path
- 78. Simple Command: ruined healpot
- 79. Simple Command: mammoneat
- 80. Simple Command: mammoneatplus
- 81. Simple Command: mammongrow
- 82. Simple Command: mammonult
- 83. Simple Command: aware
- 84. Simple Command: testTextSelect
- 85. Command with numeric value: loseXP
- 86. Command with numeric value: itempool1
- 87. Command with numeric value: itempool2
- 88. Command with numeric value: itempool3
- 89. Command with numeric value: skip
- 90. Command with numeric value: addDanger
- 91. Command with numeric value: landgrab
- 92. Command with numeric value: testmad
- 93. Simple Command: ruin
- 94. Simple Command: hot
- 95. Simple Command: cold
- 96. Simple Command: minion
- 97. Simple Command: minion2
- 98. Simple Command: minion3
- 99. Simple Command: minionf
- 100. Simple Command: miniono
- 101. Simple Command: allowAllAgents
- 102. Simple Command: complete
- 103. Simple Command: internationalView
- 104. Simple Command: cavTest

- 105. Simple Command: snow
- 106. Simple Command: min sanity
- 107. Simple Command: sgMenace
- 108. Simple Command: dark coronation
- 109. Simple Command: die
- 110. Simple Command: addAncientRuins
- 111. Simple Command: addAbyssalCity
- 112. Simple Command: refresh
- 113. Simple Command: castMember
- 114. Simple Command: gridlock
- 115. Simple Command: inflame
- 116. Simple Command: volcanic
- 117. Simple Command: civilWar
- 118. Simple Command: rosebud
- 119. Simple Command: midas
- 120. Simple Command: wantgold
- 121. Simple Command: makeReligious
- 122. Simple Command: giveTome
- 123. Simple Command: hateShadow
- 124. Simple Command: bigsnake
- 125. Simple Command: FundOrder
- 126. Command with numeric value: unrest
- 127. Command with numeric value: famine
- 128. Command with numeric value: death
- 129. Command with numeric value: ward
- 130. Command with numeric value: devastation
- 131. Command with numeric value: orcPlunder
- 132. Command with numeric value: magicDuel

- 133. Command with numeric value: dropPersonal
- 134. Command with numeric value: vingift
- 135. Command with numeric value: vinMan
- 136. Command with numeric value: opha
- 137. Command with numeric value: ophaNation
- 138. Command with numeric value: ophanimate
- 139. Command with numeric value: ophaDoubt
- 140. Command with numeric value: ophaFesteringDoubt
- 141. Command with numeric value: ophaTemple
- 142. Simple Command: submenace
- 143. Simple Command: mmm
- 144. Simple Command: international hate
- 145. Simple Command: warVictim
- 146. Simple Command: warlike
- 147. Simple Command: peaceful
- 148. Simple Command: ambitious
- 149. Simple Command: awaken
- 150. Simple Command: deepFreeze
- 151. Simple Command: madness
- 152. Simple Command: krorc
- 153. Command with numeric value: takeDmg
- 154. Simple Command: meteors
- 155. Simple Command: victory
- 156. Simple Command: defeat
- 157. Simple Command: battleroyale
- 158. Simple Command: heal
- 159. Simple Command: antagonist
- 160. Simple Command: antagonist2

- 161. Simple Command: combatbuff
- 162. Simple Command: deepOne
- 163. Simple Command: deepOneF
- 164. Command with numeric value: deepCult
- 165. Simple Command: hunger
- 166. Simple Command: hungerF
- 167. Simple Command: panic
- 168. Simple Command: deepOneAll
- 169. Simple Command: megabuff
- 170. Simple Command: infiltrate
- 171. Simple Command: possess