

How to: Target Office Applications Through Primary Interop Assemblies

Visual Studio 2013 1 out of 1 rated this helpful

When you create a new Office project, Visual Studio automatically adds references to the Microsoft Office primary interop assemblies (PIAs) that are required to build your project. You must add references to other PIAs in the following scenarios:

- You want to use features of other Microsoft Office applications in your project. For example, you might want to use features of Microsoft Office Excel in a project for Microsoft Office Word.
- You want to automate Microsoft Office applications that do not have dedicated projects in Visual Studio, such as Microsoft Office Access.

Applies to: The information in this topic applies to document-level projects and application-level projects for Office 2013 and Office 2010. See [Features Available by Office Application and Project Type](#).

Note

Your computer might show different names or locations for some of the Visual Studio user interface elements in the following instructions. The Visual Studio edition that you have and the settings that you use determine these elements. For more information, see [Customizing Development Settings](#).

To add a reference to a primary interop assembly

1. Open your Office project and select the project name in **Solution Explorer**.
2. On the **Project** menu, click **Add Reference**.
3. On the **Framework** tab, select the PIA you want in the **Component Name** list. For more information about the available Microsoft Office primary interop assemblies, see [Office Primary Interop Assemblies](#).

If the project targets the .NET Framework 4 or the .NET Framework 4.5, the **Embed Interop Types** property for the assembly reference is set to **True** by default. By using this setting, your solution does not require the PIA on end-user computers. For more information, see [Designing and Creating Office Solutions](#).

Note

In Office projects, always add references to Office PIAs by using the **.NET** tab of the **Add Reference** dialog rather than the **COM** tab. For more information, see [Office Primary Interop Assemblies](#).

4. Click **OK**.

The assembly name appears in the **References** folder of **Solution Explorer**.

See Also

Tasks

[How to: Install Office Primary Interop Assemblies](#)

Reference

[Office Primary Interop Assemblies](#)

Concepts

[Writing Code in Office Solutions](#)

Other Resources

[Developing Office Solutions](#)

