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Csc342 Section G

02/17/2015

Lecture Summary

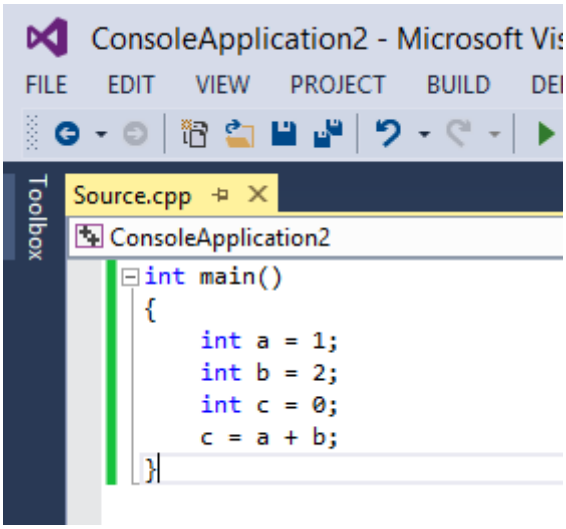
Title:

Debugging

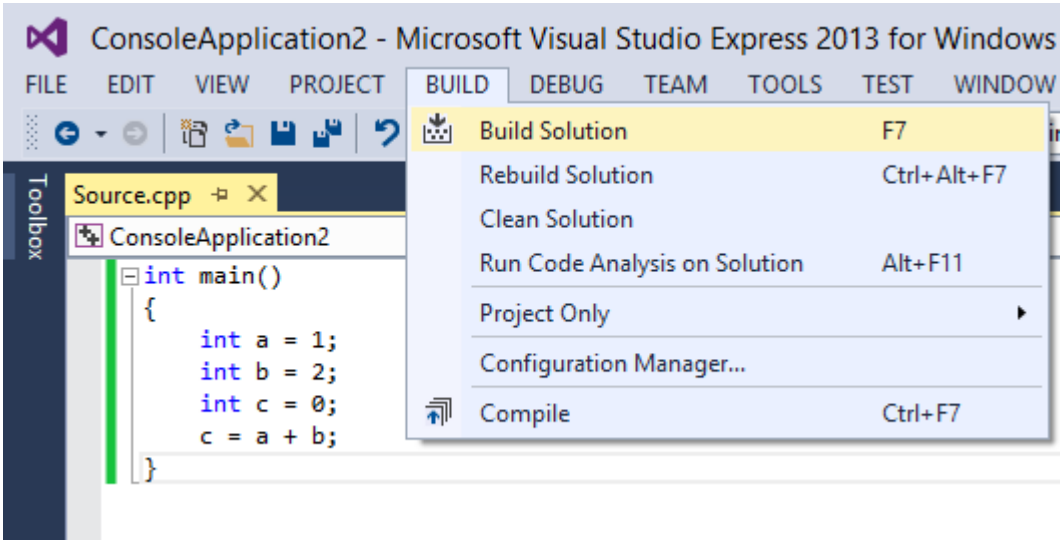
Objective:

The goal of this lecture was to understand the memory address in the computer and how to allocate it through performance of debugging a piece of a program code.

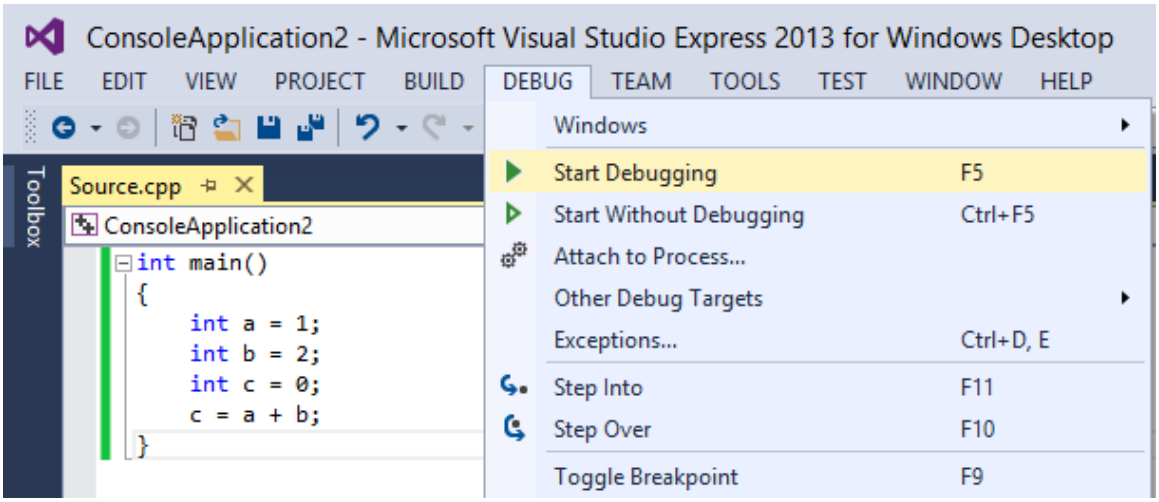
In this performance, we will be using debugging tool in Microsoft Visual Studio. First we create a simple program in C++.



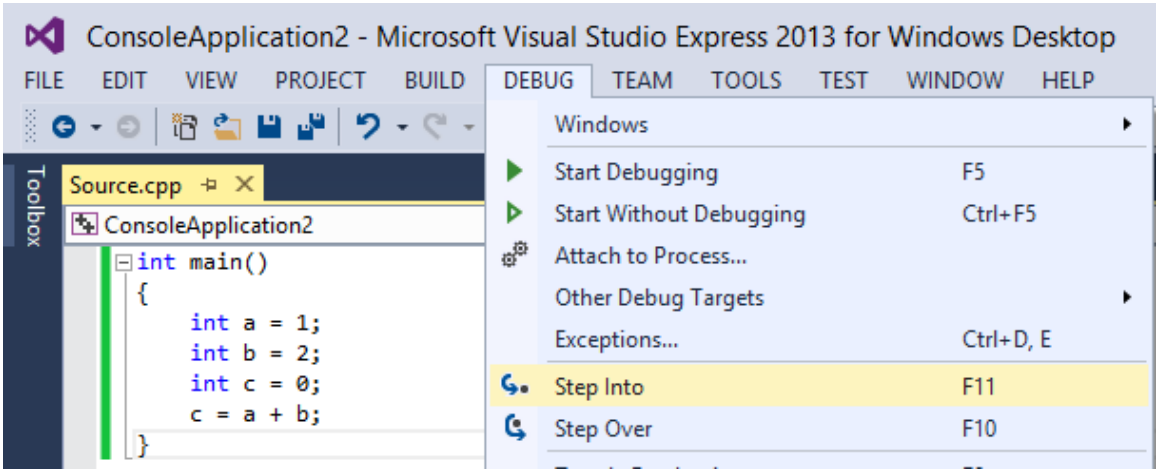
And build it as we click on “Build Solution” under BUILD menu.



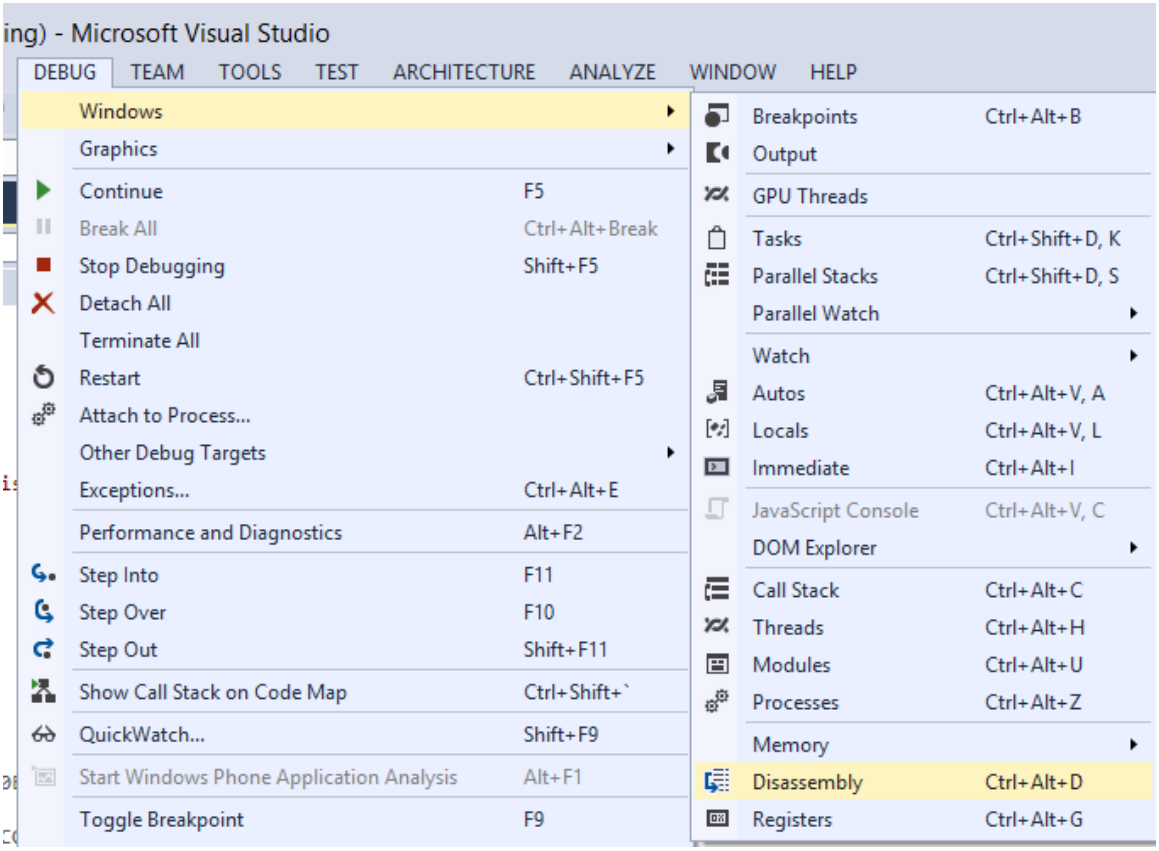
Then we go to DEBUG menu and start debugging.



After finish debugging, click “Step Into”, this allows us to execute code one statement at a time.

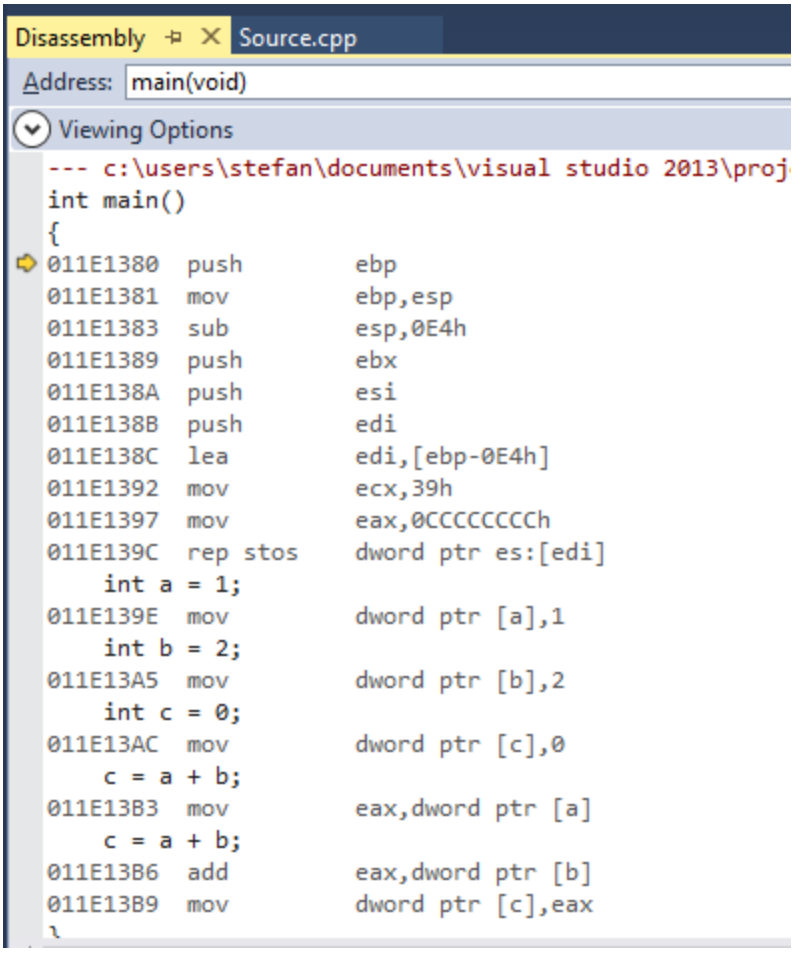


Now we can go to “Windows” under DEBUG menu to view Disassembly and Registers.



The Disassembly window shows the assembly code and memory address where each instruction is located. The Registers window displays register contents and change of register values as our code executes.

Disassembly window:



As we can see there is a yellow arrow points to “011E1380 push ebp”, this indicates which instruction that we are excuted. We can press F10 to step over to next instruction, and the register values will change as well.

“011E1380 push ebp”

“012F52A0” is a address in hexadecimal refer to an instruction, in this instruction “push” means to save the value of current register, and “ebp” is base pointer register.

“011E1381 mov ebp,esp”

esp is stack pointer, and this instruction copys register from ebp to esp and ebp now points to the top of the stack.

“011E1383 sub esp,0E4h”

In this instruction is to allocate space for local variables. 0E4h is hexadecimal has value of 228 in decimal, sub means to subtract 228 bytes for local variables.

“011E1389 push ebx”

“011E138A push esi”

“011E138B push edi”

These three instructions are to save processor registers used for temporaries. ebx is base pointer, esi is source index register, and edi is destination index register.

“int a = 1;”

“011E139E mov dword ptr [a],1”

“int b = 2;”

“011E13A5 mov dword ptr [b],2”

“int c = 0;”

“011E13AC mov dword ptr [c],0”

“c = a + b;”

“011E13B3 mov eax,dword ptr [a]”

“011E13B6 add eax,dword ptr [b]”

“011E13B9 mov dword ptr [c],eax”

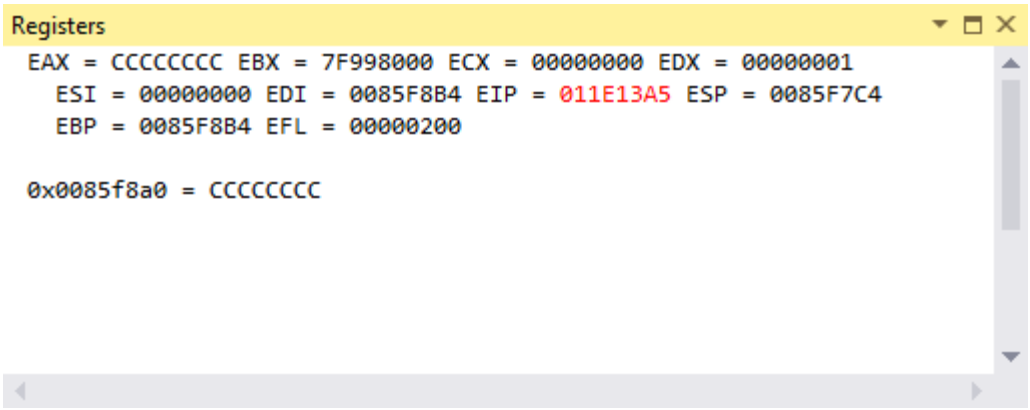
After these instructions, now the local variables are located on the stacks between ebp and esp.

Now we continue press F10 until the yellow arrow points to

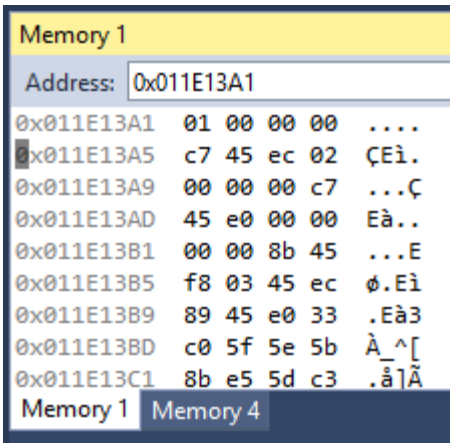
“int b = 2;”

“011E13A5 mov dword ptr [b],2”

and we look at the register window:

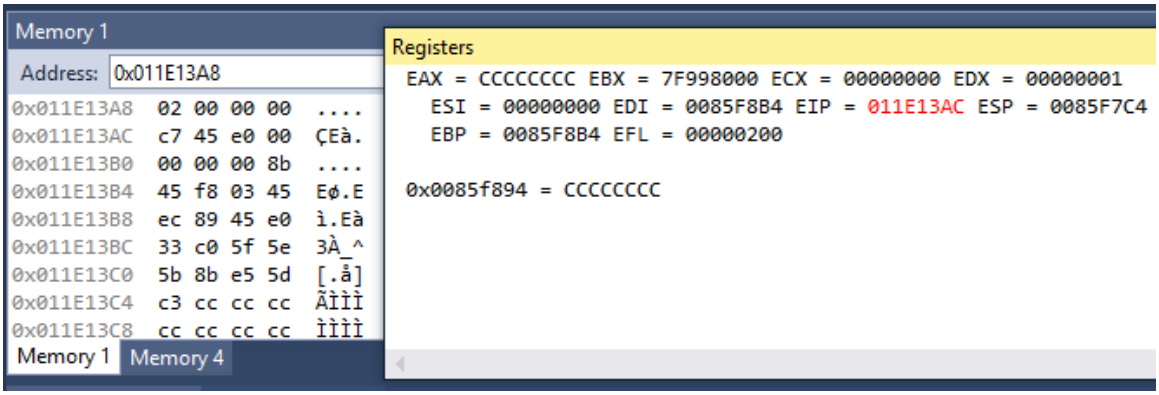


EIP (instruction pointer) address is 011E13A5. We copy it and paste it into memory window:



and we scroll up a little we can see the address 011E13A1 which is the address of variable “a” that has hexadecimal value of “01000000”, “01” are the least 2 significant bits and “a” has the deciaml value of 1.

If we press F10 one more time and we do the same thing we can find the variable “b” that has decimal value of 2:



and the same thing finding the variable “c”: