Chapter 2: PDSC Developer Utilities Usage

The PDSC Developer Utilities (Figure 1) is a set of tools to help you develop your .NET applications and keep your development environment clean and working as efficient as it can. This chapter gives you an overview of the various utilities and describes the installation of the tool.



Figure 1: Screen shot of the PDSC Developer Utilities

Overview of the Developer Utilities

After installing the PDSC Developer Utilities you will have the following programs that you can run.

Utility	Description
Computer Cleaner	Visual Studio and .NET are great development environments for creating applications quickly. However, they tend to leave a lot of miscellaneous folders and files all over your hard drive. This utility recycles these folder and files to free up hard drive space.

Utility	Description
Project Cleaner	This tool goes through Visual Studio or VS Code project folders and recycles several folders that are not needed, and can be regenerated automatically next time you build your application. You can optionally have it look in .SLN, VBProj, CSProj files and eliminate any references to source control. It can also remove any read-only attributes from the files. This utility is configurable so you can choose what folders and files you wish to recycle.
Property Generator	This utility generates C# or Visual Basic property statements. There are several templates (similar to the snippets in the Visual Studio editor) from which you can choose. You can also create your own templates to generate any type of property you want.
JSON Generator	This utility allows you to choose a table or view and generates a JSON file of the data.
XML Generator	This utility allows you to choose a table or view and generates an XML file of the data. Optionally, an XSD file of the schema of the table or view can also be generated.
C# Entity Generator	A typical entity class in C# is one that has a one-to-one correlation between the properties of the class and a table in a database. If you have a Product table in a database, this tool generates a Product class with one property for each column in your Product table. Data annotations may also be included for each property.
C# Repository Generator	This tool generates a repository class that returns hard-coded data that you select from a table in one of your database tables. When creating exercises for a training class, or to test some functionality, but you don't want to have to connect to a database, it is nice to have a collection of hard-coded data that can be returned. Instead of you having to create all this data by hand, if you have a table with data, you can use this generator to select some data and have it hard-coded into a repository class.
C# Application Creator	This utility copies all the files and folders from the where you installed the PDSC Framework template project to a new folder and name that you specify. It then renames the appropriate files to the new application name you specify.

Utility	Description
SQL Server Schema Compare	This utility compares two SQL Server databases to determine any tables, constraints, stored procedures, views, etc. that are missing between the two databases.

Table 1. List of PDSC Developer Utilities

Computer Cleaner

Visual Studio, Visual Studio Code, the .NET Framework and .NET Core are great development environments for creating applications quickly. However, the sometimes leave a lot of miscellaneous files all over your hard drive. There are a few locations on your hard drive that you should check to see if there are left-over folders or files that you can delete. I have attempted to gather as much data as I can about the various versions of .NET and operating systems. Of course, your mileage may vary on the folders and files listed here. This utility attempts to find the various folders depending on which version(s) of Visual Studio, VS Code, the .NET Framework and .NET Core you have installed on your machine.

Disclaimer Tab

When you first come into the Computer Cleaner utility, a disclaimer tab (Figure 2) is displayed. We provide you with the warning that this tool is going to remove files from your computer. It does put them into your Recycle Bin, so you can retrieve them if necessary, but there is always the potential for things to go wrong as Microsoft changes their operating systems frequently. PDSC does not take any responsibility for the use of this tool on your machine.



Figure 2: Disclaimer screen

The first thing you need to do is to click on the **Preview** button in the lower left-hand corner. This will provide you with a preview of the folders and/or files that are going to be recycled. The list of folders that are going to be recycled is contained in the **FoldersToRecycle.xml** file located in the **PDSCDeveloperUtilities** folder in the **My Documents** folder on your computer.

NOTE: Clicking on the Preview button can take a few minutes depending on how many folders and files are on your hard drive.

Selected Folders to Recycle Tab

After clicking on the **Preview** button, the list of folders that will be recycled (Figure 3). Be sure to review this list carefully. You may unselect any folders that you do not wish to recycle by unchecking the check box under the Recycle? Column next to the folder you don't want to recycle.

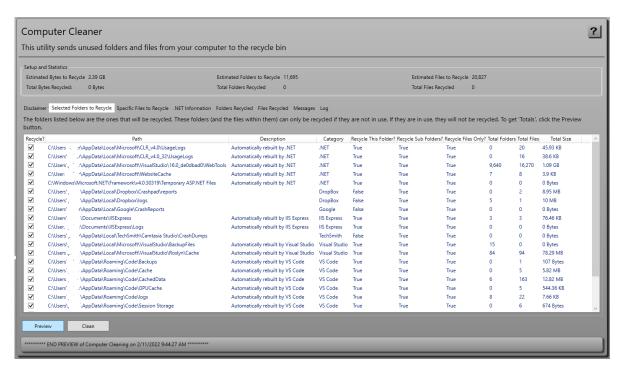


Figure 3: A list of the specified folders to recycle

Column	Description
Recyle?	Check to recycle this folder and/or the files within this folder.
Path	The actual path to the folder/files to recycle
Description	A description of the folder.
Category	What type of files, or the application, that created the files in this folder.
Recyle this Folder?	If set to true, this folder and all subfolders and files within it will be deleted. If the Description field reads "Automatically rebuilt by" then this folder is safe to have deleted.
Recycle SubFolders?	If set to true, then any subfolders within this folder will be deleted.
Recycle Files Only?	If set to true, then any files within this folder and subfolders will be deleted.
Total Folders	After clicking the Preview button, this column displays the total number of folders found within this folder.
Total Files	After clicking the Preview button, this column displays the total number of files found within this folder.
Total Size	After clicking the Preview button, this column displays the total number of bytes of all files/folder found within this folder.

NOTE: The count of folders and files, and the total bytes, is just an estimate of what could potentially be recycled. If the folder/file is in use, then it can't be recycled.

Selected Files to Recycle Tab

On this tab (Figure 4) is a list of specific files to recycle. The list of files that are going to be recycled is contained in the **FilesToRecycle.xml** located file in the **PDSCDeveloperUtilities** folder in the **My Documents** folder on your computer. You can add as many files to this XML file as you wish.

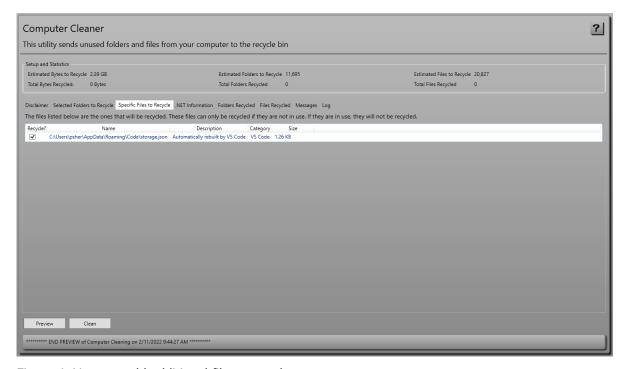


Figure 4: You can add additional files to recyle

.NET Information Tab

On this tab (Figure 5) is a list of .NET Framework and .NET Core versions located on your computer. The list of Visual Studio versions is also listed here.

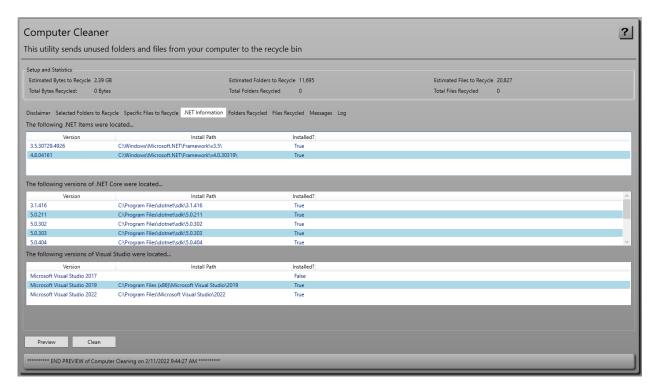


Figure 5: The list of .NET Frameworks, .NET Core and Visual Studio versions on your computer

Clean

Once you are satisfied with the list of folders and files to recycle from your hard-drive, click on the **Clean** button. This process can take several minutes depending on how many folders and files are on your hard drive. After this process is complete, the complete list of folders and files recycled is listed in the **Folders Recycled** and **Files Recycled** tabs.

You can view the list of everything that happened on the **Messages** tab, and all of these messages are written into a log file that is located in your **My Documents\PDSCDeveloperUtilities\Log** folder.

It is perfectly normal to have some Error Messages display as well, as some folders/files may be in use and not able to be accessed. Or because of security constraints, they also may not be able to be accessed.

NOTE: If after cleaning, something does not work correctly, go to your Recycle Bin and restore the folders/files that were recycled during this cleaning process.

Project Cleaner

When you create a project in Visual Studio, compile in different modes, and add the project to source control; a set of files and folders are created under your original project folder. Sometimes you might want to delete all these folders and files. For example, if you wish to give your project to someone else that is not on your network, does not have access to your source control, or you just want to clean up the folders under your project prior to adding your project for the first time to source control, you will want to eliminate all these extra files and folders using the Project Cleaner shown in Figure 6.



Figure 6: Clean up files using the Project Cleaner utility

You will first enter a top-level folder and the Project Cleaner utility will iterate through all the lower level folders and files underneath this folder and perform a series of operations. The operations performed will depend on what you fill in on the form in the following fields:

Field	Description
Top Level Project Folder	Enter the top level folder you wish to iterate through
Files to be Deleted	A list of file extensions that should be removed.
Folders to be Deleted	A list of folder names that should be deleted.
Remove Packages Folders?	Remove the "packages" folder.

Package Folder Names	Fill in the names of the packages folders to remove.
Remove Test Result Folders?	Check to remove any test result folders.
Test Folder Names	Fill in the names of the test result folders to remove.
Remove SCC References?	Check this is you wish this utility to remove the folders and files listed and to also open your .SLN and any .csproj or .vbproj files and remove the source control tags from these files.
Set File Attributes to Normal?	Check this to set the attribute of all files under the Top Level Folder to normal.
SCC Folders to be Deleted	A list of source control folders that should be removed.
SCC Files to be Deleted	A list of source control file extensions that should be removed.

Table 2: Fields to fill in for cleaning projects.

Property Generator

Visual Studio has code snippets that will let you create properties (Figure 7). These snippets such as **prop** and **propfull** are great for normal one-at-a-time properties. However, when you wish to create a lot of properties, or you need other types of properties, this is where the PDSC Property generator can help you out.

This tool will allow you to put in a comma-delimited list of property names, choose a scope and a data type and will then generate all of the appropriate private variables and public property names in C# or Visual Basic. You will have a set of different templates to choose from that will allow you to create automatic properties, properties that raise the NotifyPropertyChanged event. You will also be able to add your own templates to control how you generate the properties.

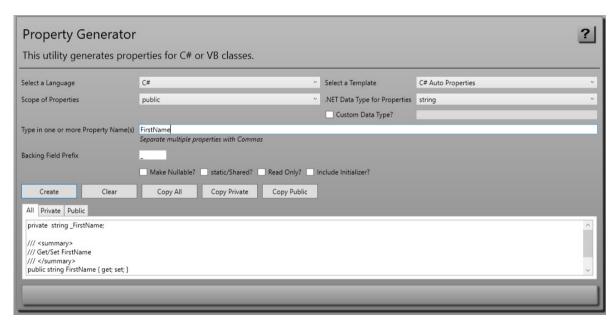


Figure 7: Property generator helps you create properties in many different styles

Adding Your Own Templates

Under the folder where you installed the Developer Utilities you will find an \Xml folder (Figure 8). In that folder is a file named PropertyTemplates.xml. This contains the list of template files that you can use to generate properties. There is also a folder named \Resources where all of the .txt files that hold the snippets for each of the types of properties that you can generate.

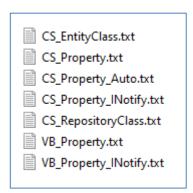


Figure 8: All the property snippets are just contained in .txt files

You will find one XML node in the PropertyTemplates.xml file for each .txt file located in the \Resources folder. To add a new template, you should just copy one of the existing .txt files and give it a new name.

As an example, let's say you wanted to add a method call from every property "setter". You could copy the CS_Property.txt and call it CS_Test.txt. Open the CS_Test.txt in Notepad. It should look something like the following:

```
<|SCOPE|><|STATIC|> <|DATATYPE|> <|PUBLICNAME|>
{
   get { return <|PRIVATENAME|>; }
   <READONLY>set { <|PRIVATENAME|> = value; }</READONLY>
}
```

You can now expand the "set" portion and add your own method call by changing this code to look something like the following:

In the above template you broke up the "set" onto separate lines and then added a call to a method called MyMethod and you pass in as a string the public property name.

Next you need to add a new node to the PropertyTemplate.xml file. Copy an existing node and paste it immediately after one of the descendant nodes. Modify the Description element to something you will recognize and the FileName element to the name of your new .txt file.

```
<PropertyTemplate>
  <Description>C# My Method Get/Set</Description>
  <FileName>CS_Test.txt</FileName>
  <Language>CSharp</Language>
  <GenPrivateVars>True</GenPrivateVars>
  <GenPublic>True</GenPublic>
</PropertyTemplate>
```

Now, restart the PDSC Developer Utilities and your new template will now appear.

Property Generator Tokens

In the .txt files that represent the code to generate for the properties you find a set of tokens in the format <|TOKEN_NAME|>. There are just a few tokens that are recognized by our property generator. Table 3 contains the list of the tokens that you can use in your templates.

Token	Description
CONVERSIONMETHOD	Based on the Data Type you choose for the variable, you can wrap the private or public property into a Convert.< CONVERSIONMETHOD >. For example, if you are generating a string property and you store it into a session variable, you will want to convert it to a string when you bring it back from the session variable. You would then write code like the following: get { return Convert. < CONVERSIONMETHOD > (HttpContext.Current.Session["< PUBLICNAME >"]); }
DATATYPE	The data type you choose for this property. This type comes from the DataTypes??.xml file.
PRIVATENAME	The private variable name for this property.
PUBLICNAME	The public property name.
<readonly></readonly>	Wrap these tokens around your "set" property to remove the "set" if you choose "read only" on the interface.
SCOPE	The scope you choose in the user interface for your property. These scopes come from the Scope??.xml files.
SHARED	Will generate "Shared" or "static" on your property if you choose this option on the interface.

Table 3. List of Tokens in Property generator

Other XML files for the Property Generator

There are a few other XML files that the property generator uses to assist with the generation. These are located in the \Xml folder under the location where you installed the Developer Utilities.

Xml File name	Description
DotNetLanguages	The list of .NET languages.
LanguageDataTypes	A list of data types for C# and Visual Basic.
LanguageScope	A list of scopes for C# and Visual Basic.

Table 4. List of XML files for the Property Generator

JSON Generator

JSON files are very handy for a lot of things. If you have data in a database you might want to generate some JSON files from that data. The PDSC JSON Generator utility will build a JSON file from any table or view in your SQL Server database.

Step 1: SQL / Select Object to Generate

To start the JSON generation process, put in the appropriate connection string that will connect you to your database (Figure 9). Select the type of objects to load (Tables or Views). If you have a large collection of objects in your database, you may wish to fill in a Schema name (or partial schema name), and/or an object name (or partial object name) prior to clicking on the Load button.

Click on the Load button to load all objects in the database. Click on one of the objects in the list and the appropriate SQL statement will be generated in the text box below the object list. You can modify this SQL prior to moving to step 3 if you wish to generate different names for your element or attribute names.

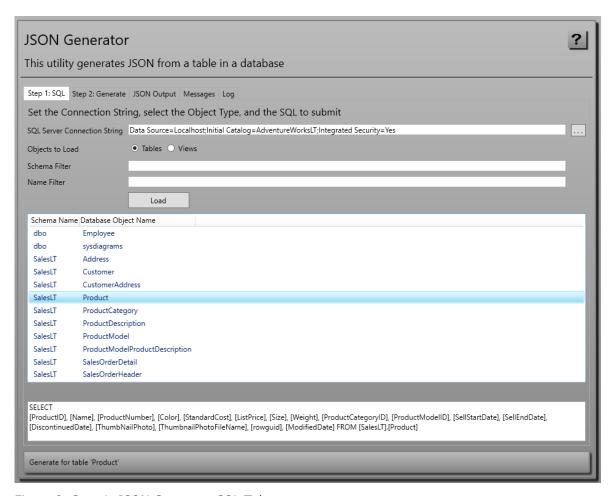


Figure 9: Step 1: JSON Generator SQL Tab

Step 2: Generate

Click on **Step 2: Generate** (Figure 10) to fill in information on how you wish to generate the JSON. You can either write to a file or not. If you write to a file, specify the name of the file and the folder for the JSON file. A ".json" file extension will automatically be added to the file name. You will be prompted to overwrite this file if you check the **Prompt to Overwrite?** check box.



Figure 10: Step 2: JSON Generator Generate Tab

Click the **Generate** button to start the generation process.

View the JSON Output

After you click on the **Generate** (Figure 11) button, you are presented with the screen shown in Figure 11. This screen shows you where the generated .json file is located and the JSON output.



Figure 11: JSON Generator Output tab

XML Generator

XML files are very handy for a lot of things. If you have data in a database you might want to generate some XML files from that data. The PDSC XML Generator

utility will build XML and XSD files from any table or view in your SQL Server or Oracle database.

Step 1: SQL / Select Object to Generate

To start the XML generation process, put in the appropriate connection string that will connect you to your database (Figure 12). Select the type of objects to load (Tables or Views). If you have a large collection of objects in your database, you may wish to fill in a Schema name (or partial schema name), and/or an object name (or partial object name) prior to clicking on the Load button.

Click on the Load button to load all objects in the database. Click on one of the objects in the list and the appropriate SQL statement will be generated in the text box below the object list. You can modify this SQL prior to moving to step 3 if you wish to generate different names for your element or attribute names.

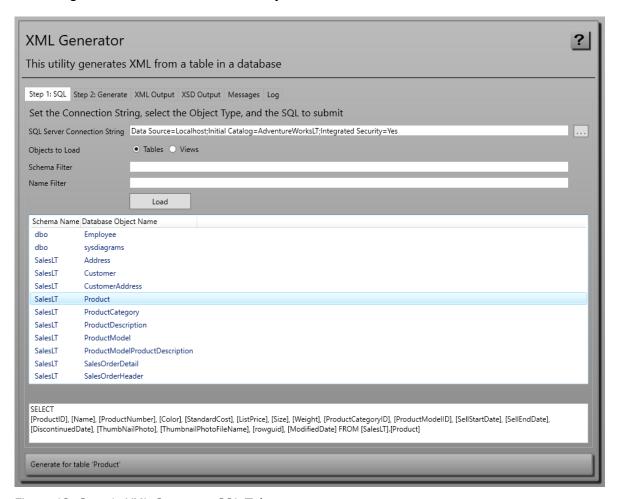


Figure 12: Step 1: XML Generator SQL Tab

Step 2: Generate

Click on **Step 2: Generate** (Figure 13) to fill in information on how you wish to generate the XML/XSD files. You can specify your Root Element Name, and for each row the Child Element Name to use. Check the **Write XSD File?** to generate an XSD file. Check the **Create Attribute-Based XML?** to generate attribute-based XML file.

You can either write to a file or not. Fill in the name of the XML file name and XML Output folder. Fill in the XSD file name and XSD output folder. You will be prompted to overwrite this file if you check the **Prompt To Overwrite?** check box.

Click the **Generate(s)** button to start the generation process.

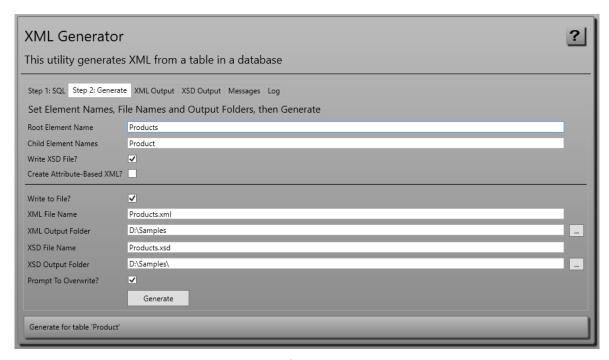


Figure 13: Step 2: XML Generator Generate Tab

XML Output

After you click on the **Generates** button, you will be presented with the screen shown in Figure 14.

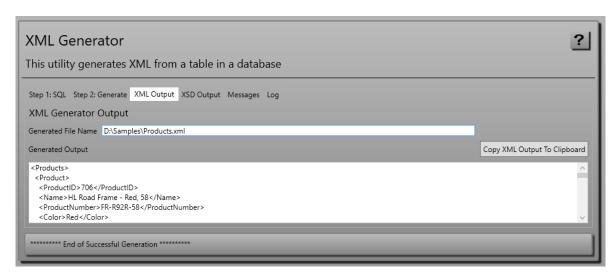


Figure 14: XML Output Tab

XSD Output

If you generated an XSD, you can view the XSD on the screen show in Figure 15.

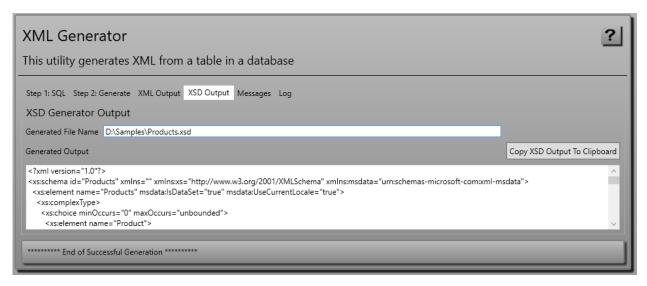


Figure 15: XSD Output tab

C# Entity Generator

A typical entity class in C# is one that has a one-to-one correlation between the properties of the class and a table in a database. If you have a Product table in a database, this tool generates a Product class with one property for each column in your Product table.

Step 1: SQL and Object Selection

To start the C# entity class generation process, put in the appropriate connection string that will connect you to your database (Figure 16). Choose whether you wish to load Tables or Views by selecting the appropriate radio button. If you have a large collection of objects in your database, you may wish to fill in a Schema Filter (partial schema name), and/or a Name Filter (partial object name) prior to clicking on the Load button.

After clicking on the Load button, you will be presented with a list of database objects that match your specific filter. Click on one of the objects in the list and the appropriate SQL statement will be generated in the text box below the object list. You can modify this SQL prior to moving to step 3 if you wish to generate different names for your element or attribute names.

If you type in your own SQL, add on "WHERE 1 = 0" at the end so no records are generated. This tool only requires an empty result set to get the list of columns from which to generate the entity class.

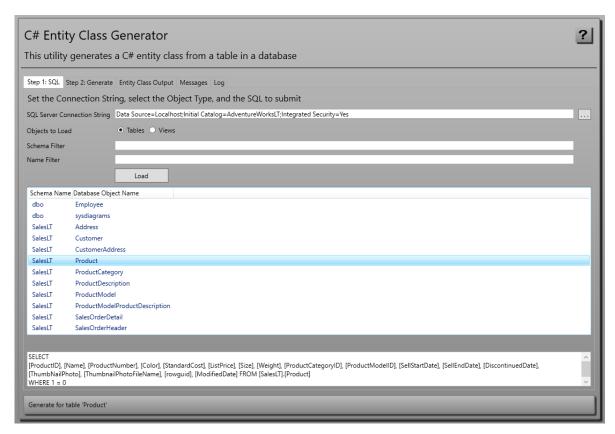


Figure 16: Step 1: C# Entity Class Generator Connection Tab

Step 2: Generate

Click on **Step 2: Generate** (Figure 17) to fill in information on how you wish to generate the C# entity class. Fill in the Namespace to use, the entity class name, and if you wish to generate Data Annotations for each property and if you wish to include the #nullable disable statement at the top of the file.

You can either write to a file or not. Fill in the C# File Name, the C# Output Folder and check the **Prompt to Overwrite?** check box if you want to be prompted before overwriting a previously written file. Click the **Generate** button to start the generation process.

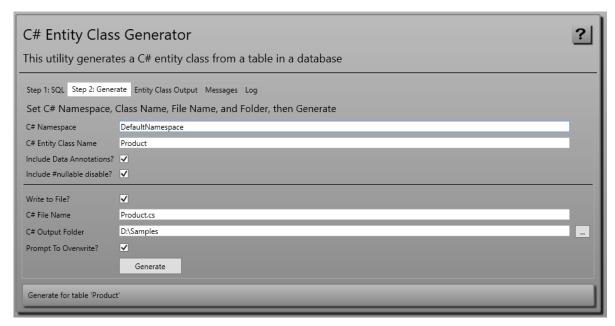


Figure 17: Step 2: C# Entity Class Generator Generate Tab

Step 3: Output

After you click on the **Generate** button, you will be presented with the screen shown in Figure 18. This screen tells you where the C# entity file is located and allows you to copy the entity class to the clipboard.

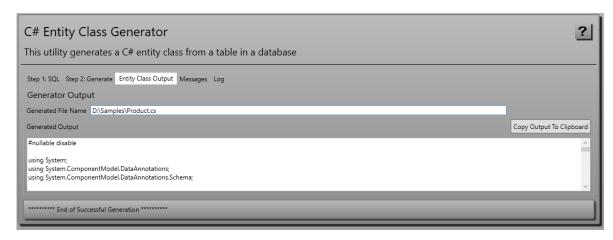


Figure 18: Step 3: C# Entity Class Generator Output tab

C# Repository Generator

A repository class is one that has methods to return data from a data source. When creating exercises for a training class, or to test some functionality, but you don't want to have to connect to a database, it is nice to have a collection of hard-coded data that can be returned. Instead of you having to create all this data by hand, if you have a table with data, you can use this generator to select some data and have it hard-coded into a repository class.

Step 1: SQL and Object Selection

To start the C# repository class generation process, put in the appropriate connection string that will connect you to your database (Figure 16). Choose whether you wish to load Tables or Views by selecting the appropriate radio button. If you have a large collection of objects in your database, you may wish to fill in a Schema Filter (partial schema name), and/or a Name Filter (partial object name) prior to clicking on the Load button.

After clicking on the Load button, you will be presented with a list of database objects that match your specific filter. Click on one of the objects in the list and the appropriate SQL statement will be generated in the text box below the object list. You can modify this SQL prior to moving to step 3 if you wish to generate different names for your element or attribute names.

If you type in your own SQL, add you may add on "SELECT **TOP 100**" or some other number if you don't want to generate all the records in the table/view.

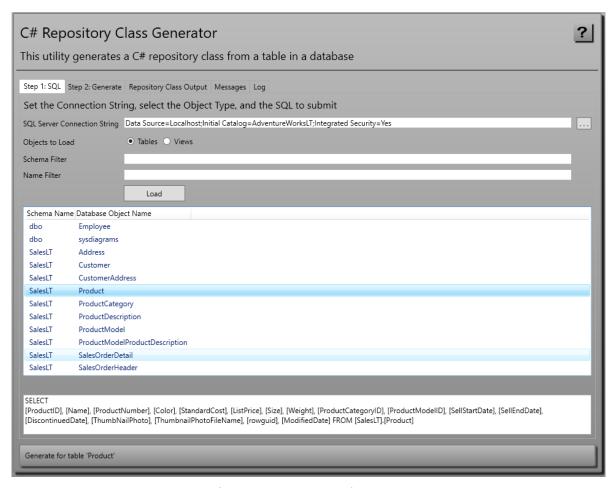


Figure 19: Step 1: C# Repository Class Generator SQL Tab

Step 2: Generate

Click on **Step 3: Generate** (Figure 20) to fill in information on how you wish to generate the C# repository class. Fill in the Namespace to use, the Entity Class Name, the Repository Class Name and if you wish to include the #nullable disable statement at the top of the file. You can either write to a file or not. Fill in the file name. and the output folder. Check the **Prompt to Overwrite?** check box if you want to be prompted before overwriting a previously written file. Click the **Generate** button to start the generation process.

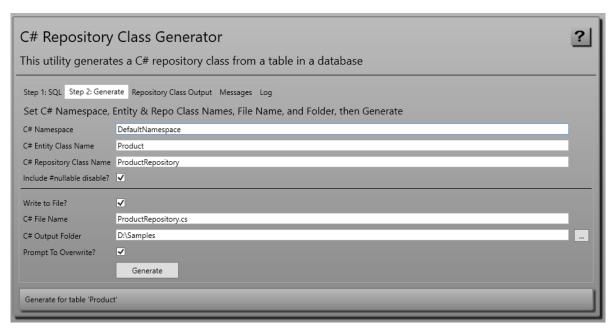


Figure 20: Step 2: C# Repository Class Generator Generate Tab

Step 3: Output

After you click on the **Generate** button, you will be presented with the screen shown in Figure 21. This screen tells you where the C# repository file is located and allows you to copy the entity class to the clipboard.

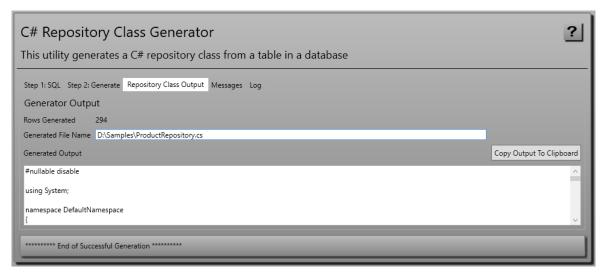


Figure 21: Step 3: C# Repository Class Generator Output tab

C# Application Creator

Click on the C# App Creator menu to see a screen that looks like Figure 22. Modify the "New Application Location" to a valid hard drive, and folder, on your system and click the **Create** button. If you get an error that one of the paths is incorrect, fix it up, then click the Create button again. In just a few seconds you should receive a message that the process is complete, and you will see a bunch of messages as seen at the bottom of the screen.

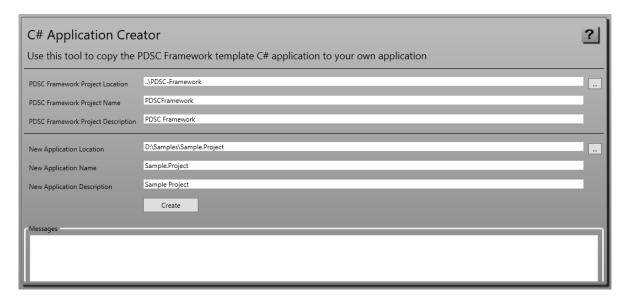


Figure 22: The PDSC C# Application Creator helps you build a new MVC project.

You can now go to the "New Application Location" folder and view the results of running this tool as shown in Figure 23.

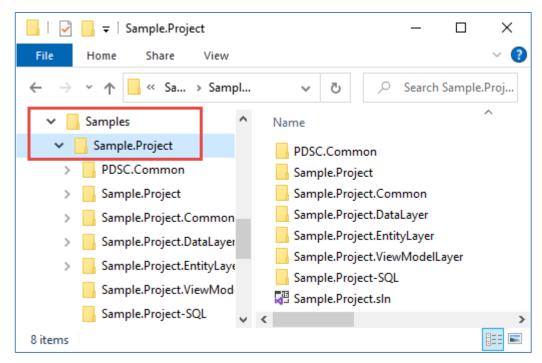


Figure 23: In the Application Location folder you find a folder structure like that of the PDSC Framework template.

Create a Sample Database

Open the SQL Server Management Studio and create a new database named **Sample.Project**. Open the "Sample.Project-SQL" folder and locate the **Sample.Project.sql** file (Figure 24) and load that file into SQL Server Management Studio. Run this script to create the database objects. Open the **Sample.Project-Data.sql** file in SQL Server Management Studio and run this script to add data to the database objects.

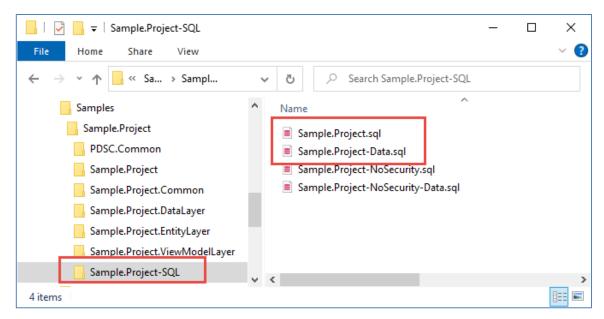


Figure 24: Locate the .SQL files to install in your new application folder.

Run the Sample Project

Go to the **\Sample.Project** folder and double-click on the **Sample.Project.sIn** file. Run this project. When you get to the home page, click on the Login link and login with 'bill@microsoft.com' and the password 'P@ssw0rd'. If you have done everything correctly, you should now be logged into your sample application.

Next Steps

Please read the chapter on the **Haystack Code Generator** for information on how to generate add/edit/delete pages for your new project.

SQL Compare

When you run the SQL Compare utility, you put in two different connections string that point to similar databases. For example, maybe you need to find out what you changed in your QA database compared to your Production database. Click the Compare button (shown in Figure 25) and a complete list of missing or changed objects will appear in the messages tabs at the bottom of the screen.

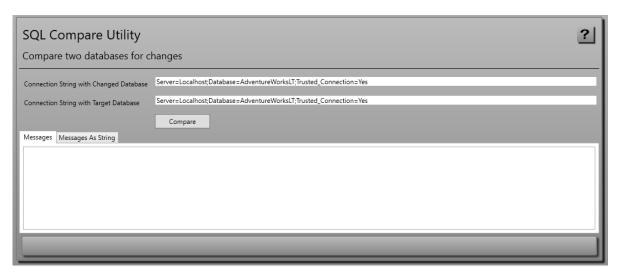


Figure 25: Get missing objects from one database to another via the SQL Compare Utility.

Summary

The PDSC Developer Utilities will help increase your productivity while developing your applications. We hope you enjoy using this product.