

# 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# Data Repo Generator	This utility 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.
Code Generator	This utility generates Entity, Repository, View Model and Search classes from a table. It can also generate a complete set of CRUD MVC pages.
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.
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.

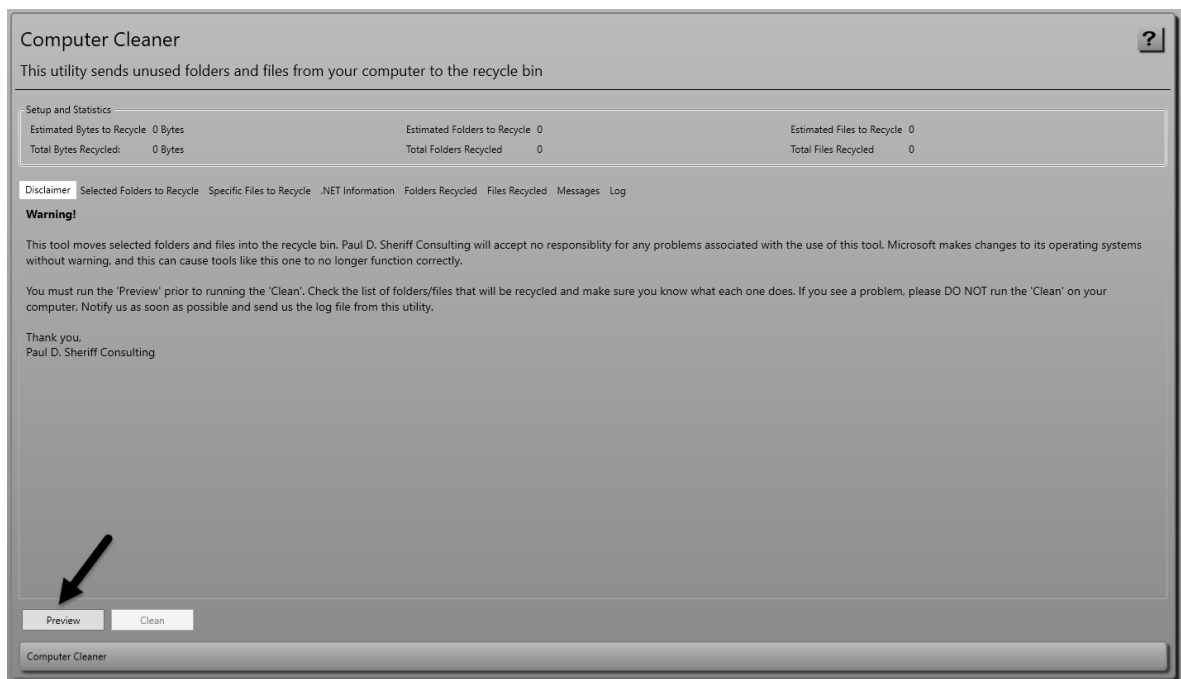


Figure 2: Disclaimer screen

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.

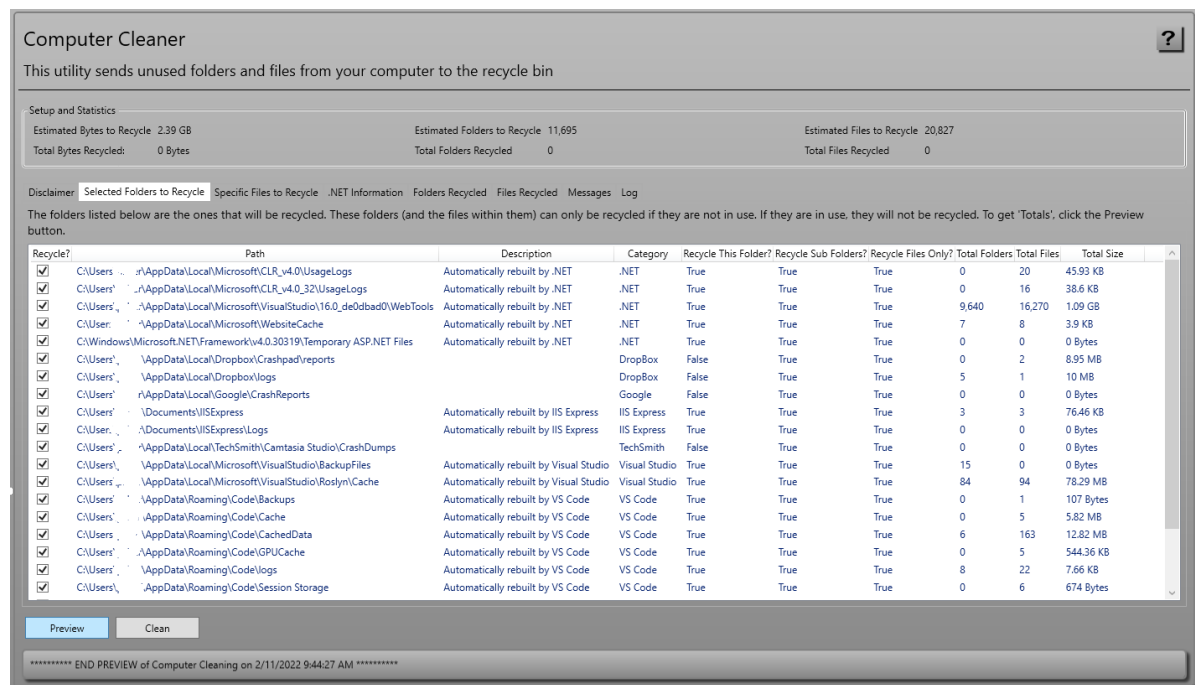


Figure 3: A list of the specified folders to recycle

Column	Description
Recycle?	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.
Recycle 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.

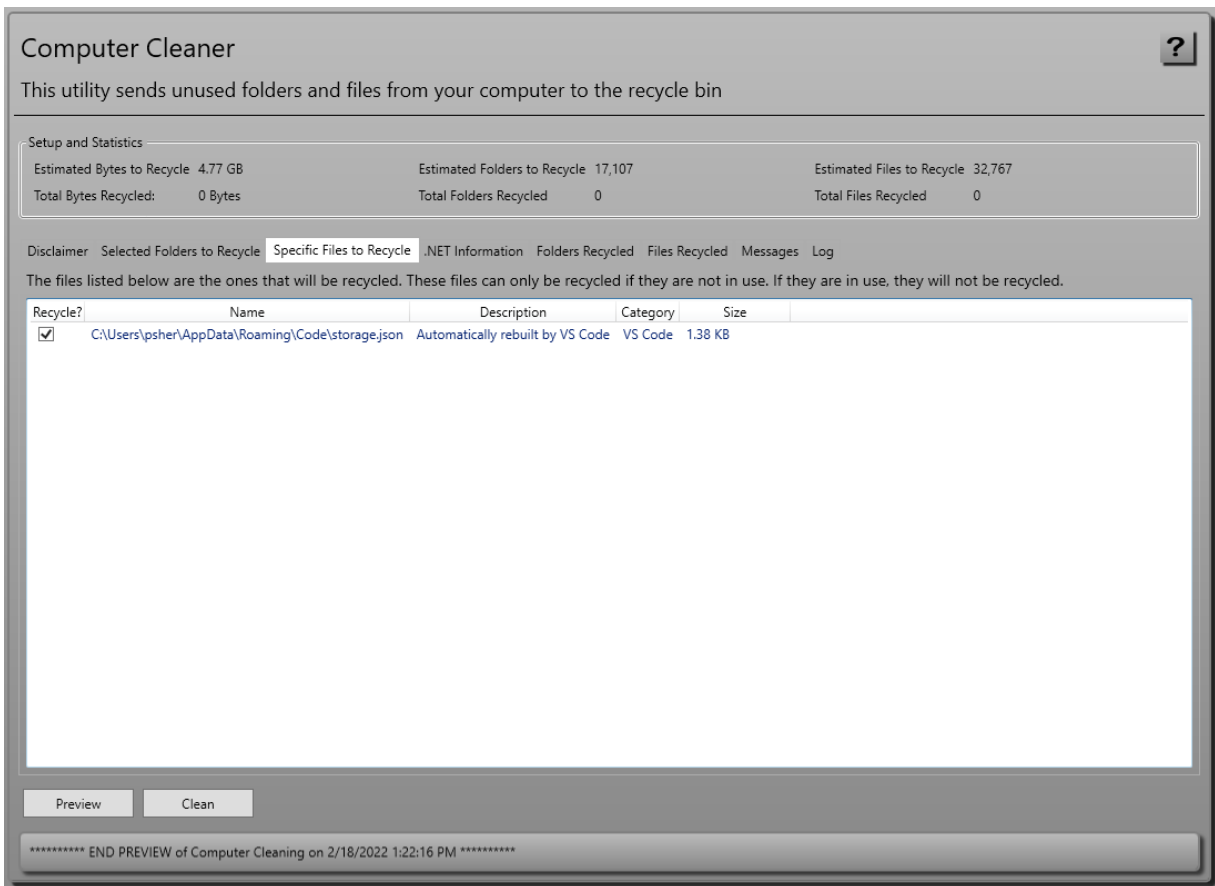


Figure 4: You can add additional files to recycle

## .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.

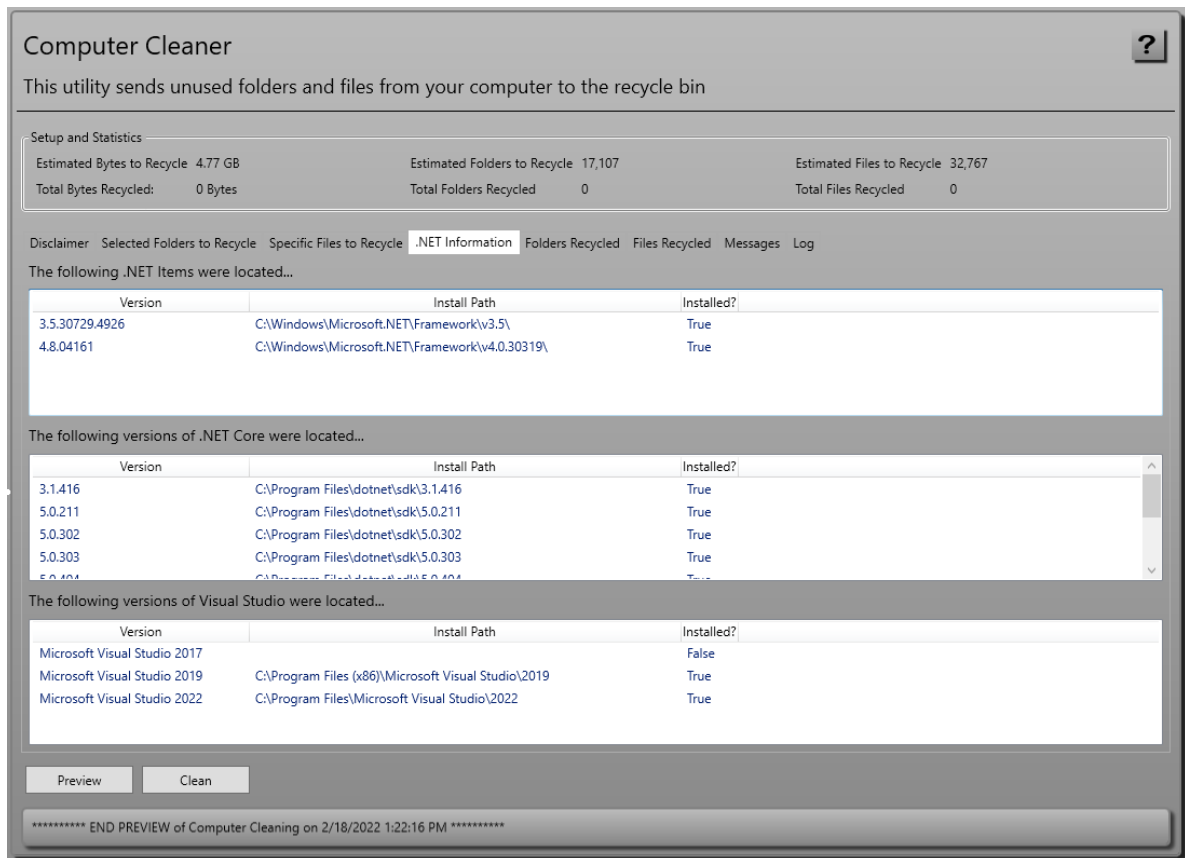


Figure 5: The list of .NET Frameworks, .NET Core and Visual Studio versions on your computer

## 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.

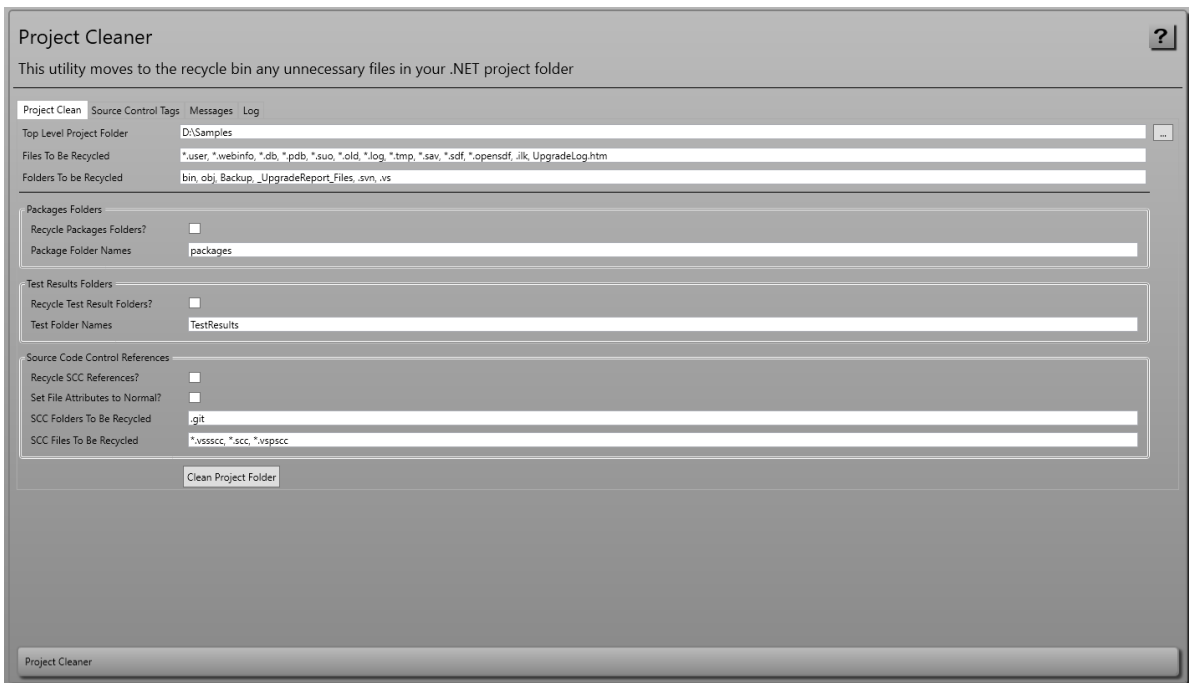


Figure 6: Clean up files using the Project Cleaner utility

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.

**NOTE:** This utility only goes thru the folder and sub-folders specified in the **Top Level Folder** field. If the solution in the top-level folder points to another project in another folder structure, that other project will NOT have any of its attributes reset, or its source control references removed.

## 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.

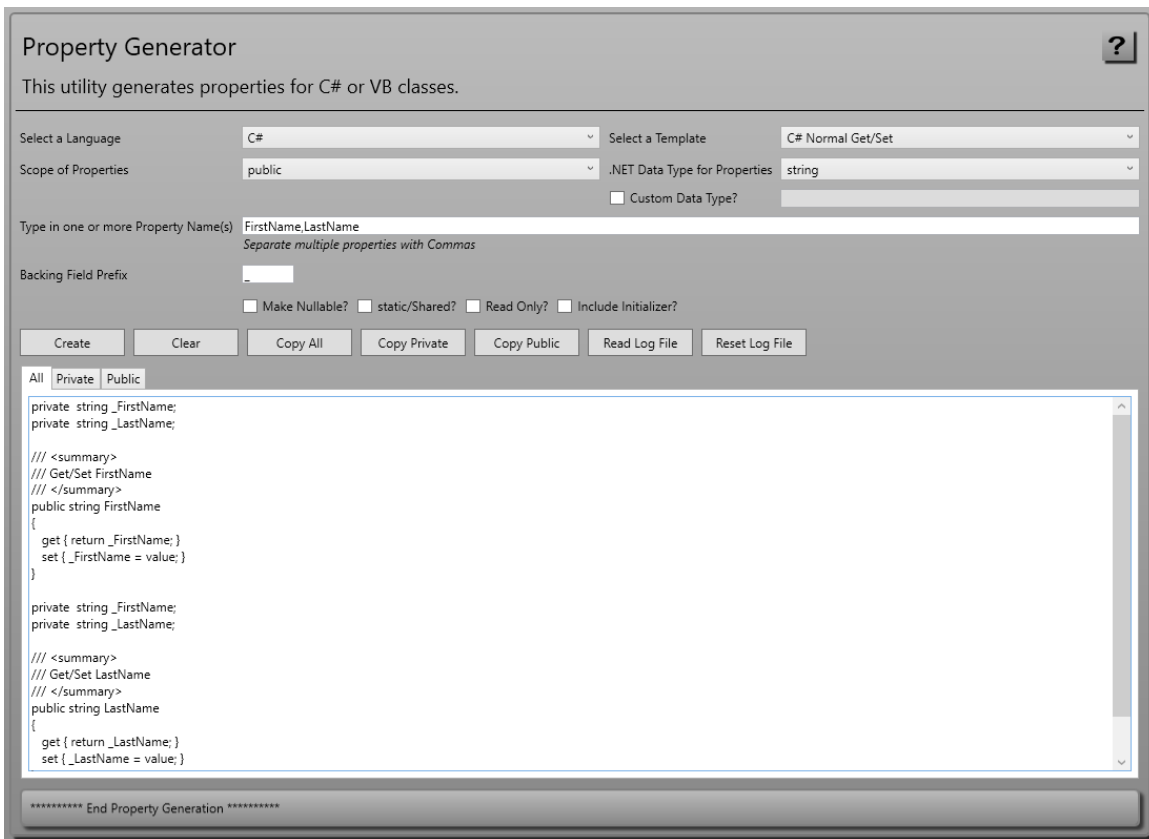


Figure 7: Property generator helps you create properties in many different styles

## Adding Your Own Templates

Under the [My Documents]\PDSCDeveloperUtilities folder is an \XML folder. 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 \Templates\PropertyGenerator (Figure 8) in which there are several .txt files that hold the snippets for each of the types of properties that you can generate.

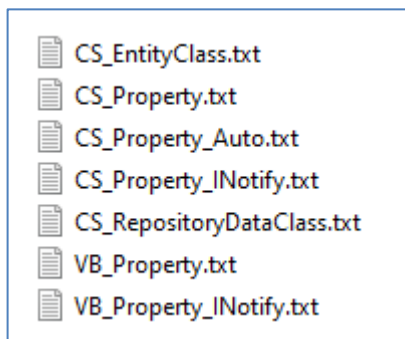


Figure 8: All the property snippets are just contained in .txt files

You will find one XML node in the PropertyTemplates.xml file for each .txt file located in the \Templates\PropertyGenerator 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:

```
<|SCOPE|><|STATIC|> <|DATATYPE|> <|PUBLICNAME|>
{
    get { return <|PRIVATENAME|>; }
    <readonly>set
    {
        <|PRIVATENAME|> = value;
        MyMethod("<|PUBLICNAME|>") ;
    }</readonly>
}
```

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 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: <i>get { return Convert.&lt; CONVERSIONMETHOD &gt;</i> <i>(HttpContext.Current.Session["&lt; PUBLICNAME &gt;"]); }</i>
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 files are located in the [My Documents]\PDSCDeveloperUtilities\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. The PDSC JSON Generator utility builds a JSON file from the data within 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). You can optionally expand the "What to Load..." area and 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.

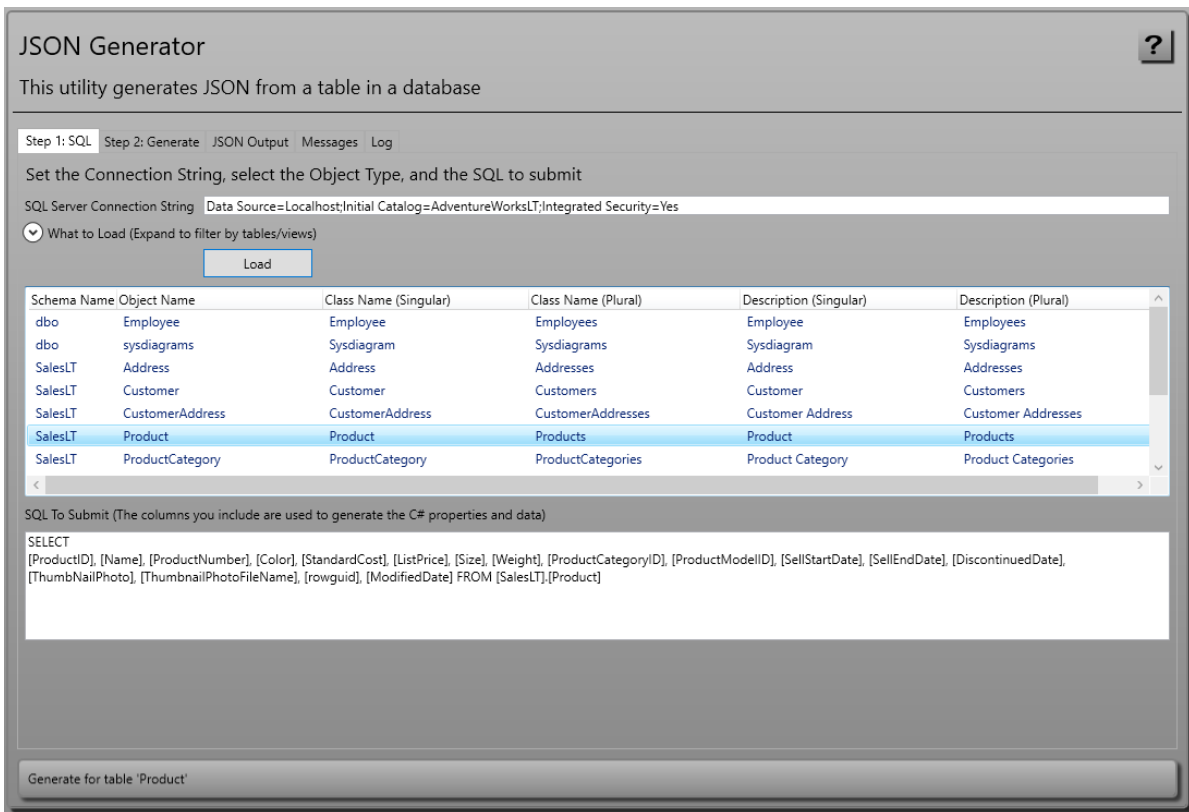


Figure 9: Step 1: JSON Generator SQL Tab

## 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.

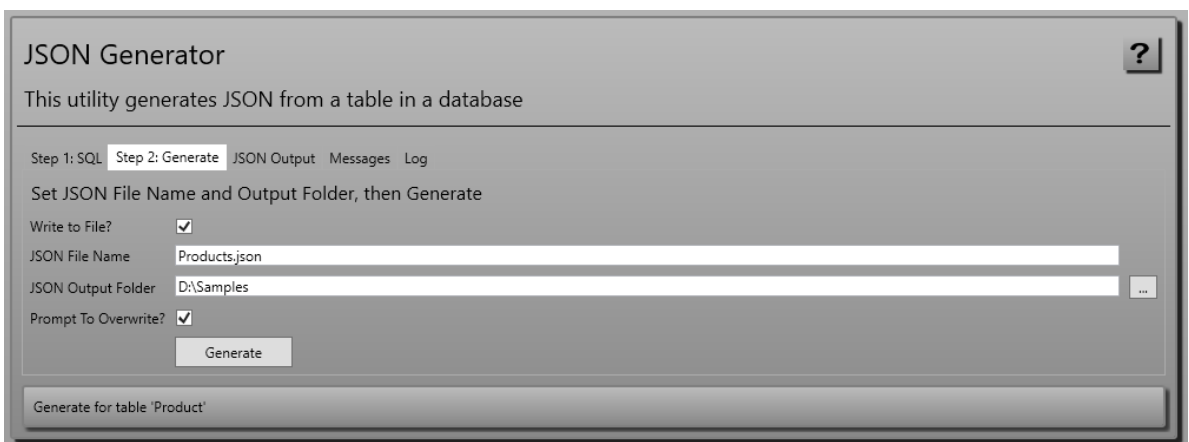


Figure 10: Step 2: JSON Generator Generate Tab

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.

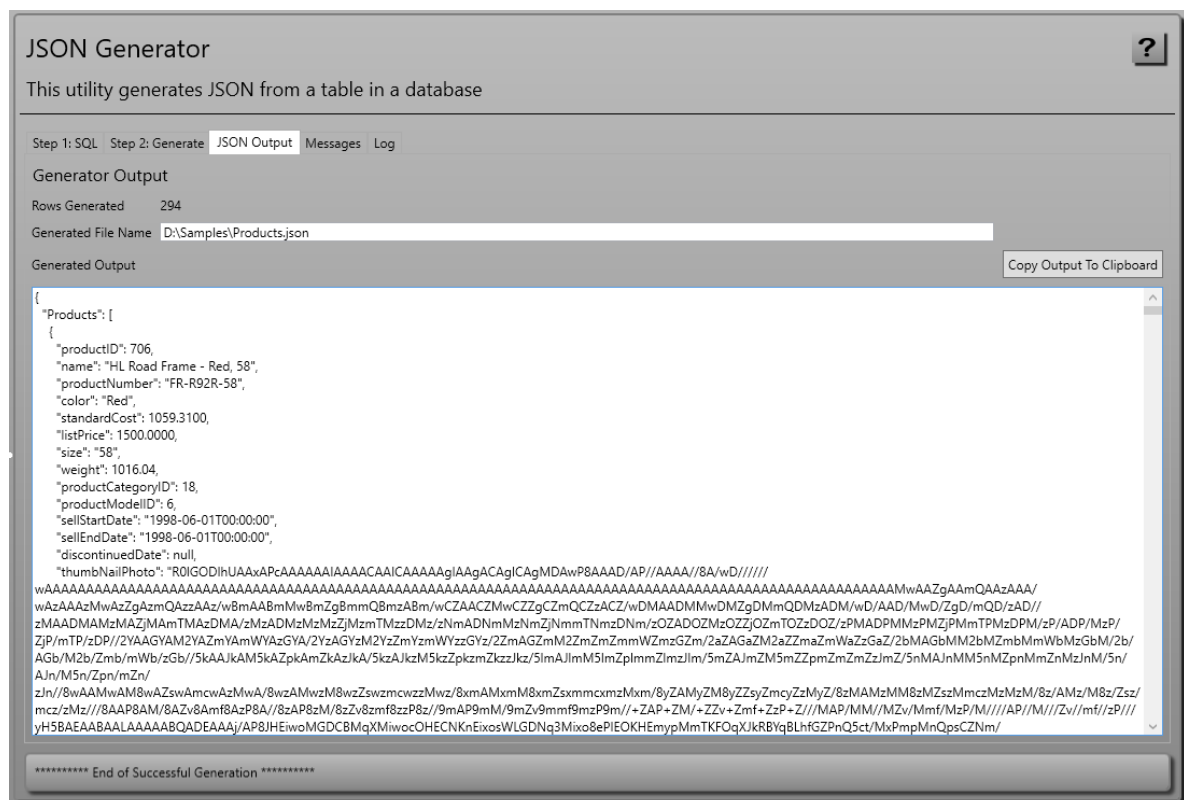


Figure 11: JSON Generator Output tab

## XML Generator

XML files are very handy for a lot of things. The PDSC XML Generator utility builds XML and XSD files from any table or view in your SQL Server 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). You can optionally expand the "What to Load..." area and 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.

XML Generator

This utility generates XML from a table in a database

Step 1: SQL Step 2: Generate XML Output XSD Output Messages Log

Set the Connection String, select the Object Type, and the SQL to submit

SQL Server Connection String Data Source=localhost;Initial Catalog=AdventureWorksLT;Integrated Security=Yes

Objects to Load ☒ Tables ☐ Views

Schema Filter

Name Filter

Load

Schema Name	Database	Object Name
dbo		Employee
dbo		sysdiagrams
SalesLT		Address
SalesLT		Customer
SalesLT		CustomerAddress
SalesLT		Product
SalesLT		ProductCategory
SalesLT		ProductDescription
SalesLT		ProductModel
SalesLT		ProductModelProductDescription
SalesLT		SalesOrderDetail
SalesLT		SalesOrderHeader

SELECT  
[ProductID], [Name], [ProductNumber], [Color], [StandardCost], [ListPrice], [Size], [Weight], [ProductCategoryID], [ProductModelID], [SellStartDate], [SellEndDate],  
[DiscontinuedDate], [ThumbNailPhoto], [ThumbNailPhotoFileName], [rowguid], [ModifiedDate] FROM [SalesLT].[Product]

Generate for table 'Product'

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.

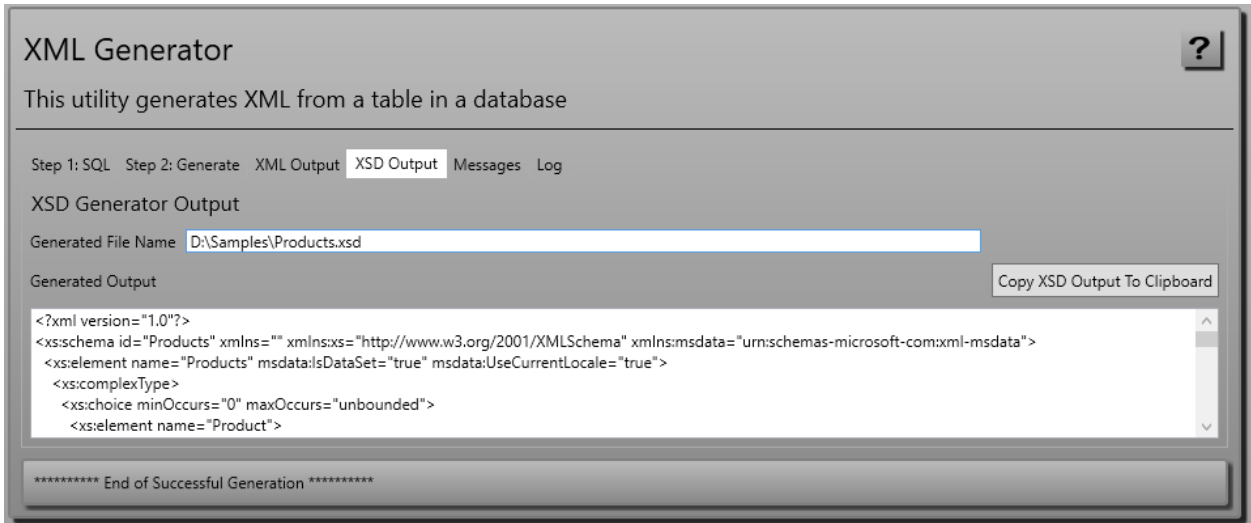


Figure 15: XSD Output tab

## C# Data 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 20). 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.

**C# Repository Class with Hard-Coded Data Generator**

This utility generates a C# repository class with hard-coded data from a table in a database

Step 1: SQL Step 2: Generate Repository Class Output Messages Log

Set the Connection String, select the Object Type, and the SQL to submit

SQL Server Connection String Data Source=localhost;Initial Catalog=AdventureWorksLT;Integrated Security=Yes

What to Load (Expand to filter by tables/views)

Load

Schema Name	Object Name	Class Name (Singular)	Class Name (Plural)	Description (Singular)
dbo	Employee	Employee	Employees	Employee
dbo	sysdiagrams	Sysdiagram	Sysdiagrams	Sysdiagram
SalesLT	Address	Address	Addresses	Address
SalesLT	Customer	Customer	Customers	Customer
SalesLT	CustomerAddress	CustomerAddress	CustomerAddresses	Customer Address
SalesLT	Product	Product	Products	Product
SalesLT	ProductCategory	ProductCategory	ProductCategories	Product Category
SalesLT	ProductDescription	ProductDescription	ProductDescriptions	Product Description
SalesLT	ProductModel	ProductModel	ProductModels	Product Model
SalesLT	ProductModelProductDescription	ProductModelProductDescription	ProductModelProductDescriptions	Product Model Product
SalesLT	SalesOrderDetail	SalesOrderDetail	SalesOrderDetails	Sales Order Detail
SalesLT	SalesOrderHeader	SalesOrderHeader	SalesOrderHeaders	Sales Order Header

SQL To Submit (The columns you include are used to generate the C# properties and data)

```
SELECT
[ProductID], [Name], [ProductNumber], [Color], [StandardCost], [ListPrice], [Size], [Weight], [ProductCategoryID], [ProductModelID], [SellStartDate],
[SellEndDate], [DiscontinuedDate], [ThumbNailPhoto], [ThumbNailPhotoFileName], [rowguid], [ModifiedDate] FROM [SalesLT].[Product]
```

Generate for table 'Product'

Figure 16: Step 1: C# Repository Class Generator SQL Tab

## Step 2: Generate

Click on **Step 3: Generate** (Figure 17) 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.

**C# Repository Class with Hard-Coded Data Generator** ?

This utility generates a C# repository class with hard-coded data from a table in a database

Step 1: SQL **Step 2: Generate** Repository Class Output Messages Log

Set C# Namespace, Entity & Repo Class Names, File Name, and Folder, then Generate

C# Namespace:

C# Entity Class Name:

C# Repository Class Name:

Include #nullable disable? ☒

---

Write to File? ☒

C# File Name:

C# Output Folder:  ...

Prompt To Overwrite? ☒

Generate for table 'Product'

Figure 17: 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 18. This screen tells you where the C# repository file is located and allows you to copy the entity class to the clipboard.

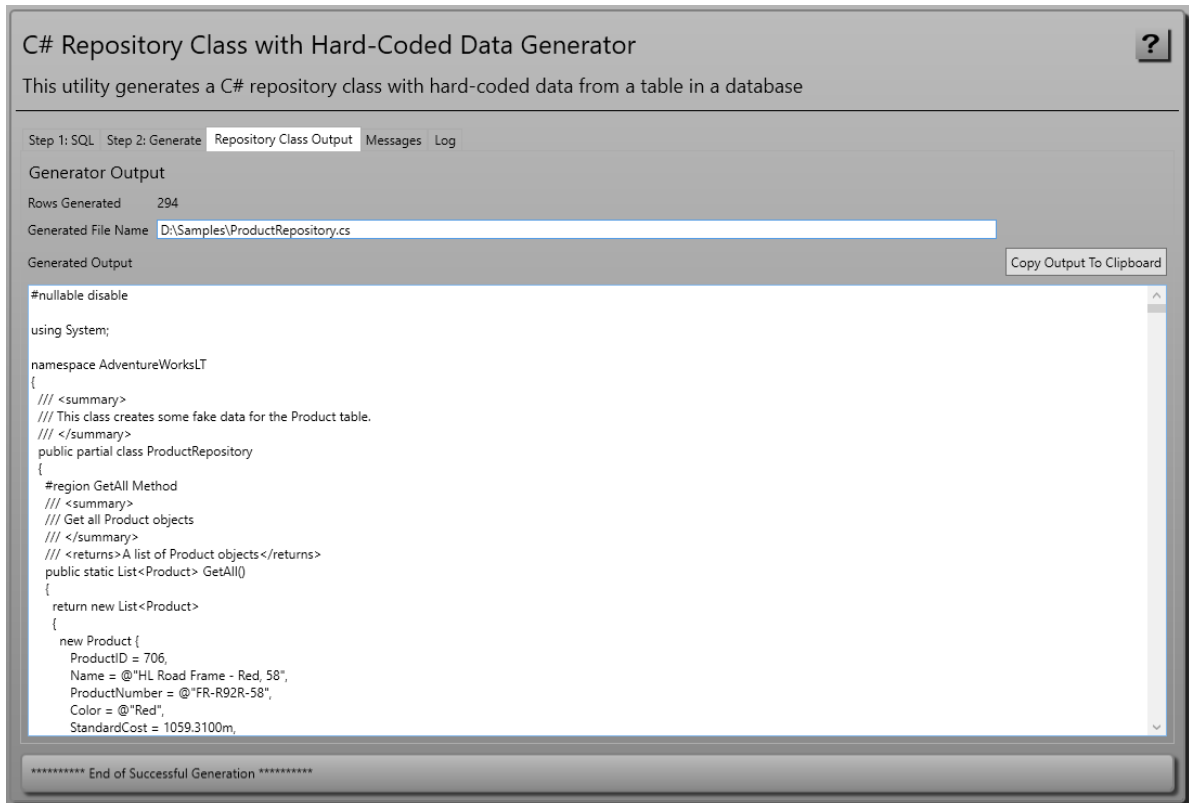


Figure 18: Step 3: C# Repository Class Generator Output tab

## Code Generator

The PDSC Code Generator generates a set of classes and MVC pages for a single table in your SQL Server database. For example, with the supplied templates, you can generate Entity, Repository, Search and View Model classes. You can also generate a complete CRUD MVC set of pages. The following table explains what you can generate with the Code Generator

Template	Description
.NET 6 (Data Classes)	Generates the appropriate classes to get all, get a single, search for, add, edit, and delete data from a single table. The code uses the Entity Framework for all this functionality. It generates a DbContext class to which you can add additional generated code for more tables. A view model class is created for use with MVC applications.
.NET 6 (MVC)	Generates an MVC controller class, an index page, and partials pages for listing, searching, adding, editing, and deleting data from a table. A Program.cs file and an appsettings.Development.json file are also generated to connect to the DbContext and repository classes generated from the template ".NET 6 (Data Classes)".

.NET Framework 4.x (Data Classes)	Generates the appropriate classes to get all, get a single, search for, add, edit, and delete data from a single table. The code uses the Entity Framework for all this functionality. It generates a DbContext class to which you can add additional generated code for more tables. A view model class is created for use with WPF or MVC applications.
.NET Framework 4.x (MVC)	Generates an MVC controller class, an index page, and partials pages for listing, searching, adding, editing, and deleting data from a table. A Web.config file is generated to store the connection string that is supplied to the DbContext class generated from the template ".NET Framework 4.x (Data Classes)".

### Step 1: Select Template(s)

On the first tab you click on a Template Group and it displays the set of Templates for that group as shown in Figure 19. You are allowed to select one or more template groups to generate.

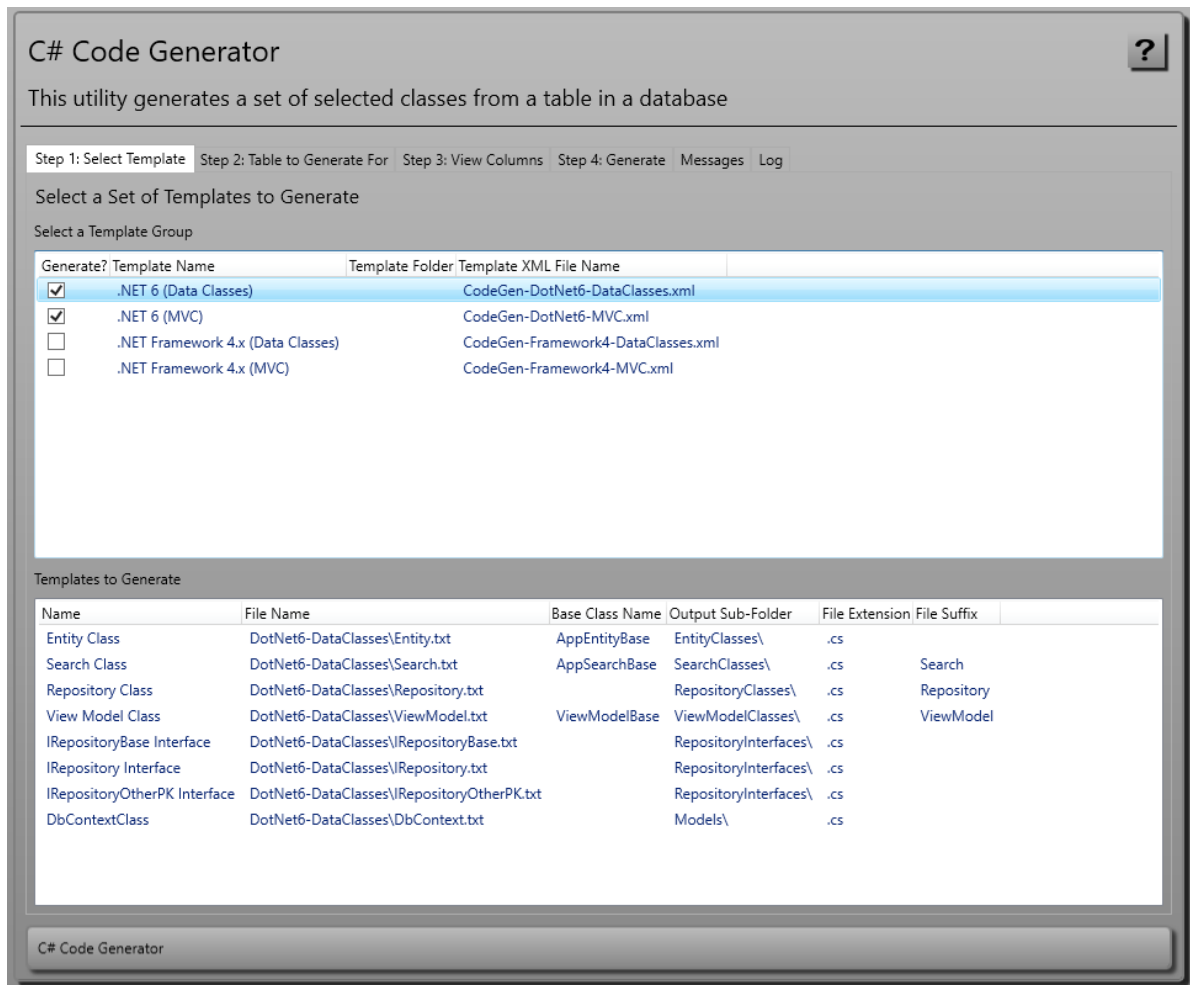


Figure 19: Step 1: C# Code Generator Select Template Tab

## Step 2: Table(s) to Generate For

Put in the appropriate connection string that will connect you to your database (Figure 20). You can optionally expand the "What to Load..." area and 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 the check box in the **Generate?** Column next to the table for which you wish to generate code. If you click on one of the tables (not on the check box), you can then view the columns and the meta-data about that specific table in the **Step 3: View Columns** tab.

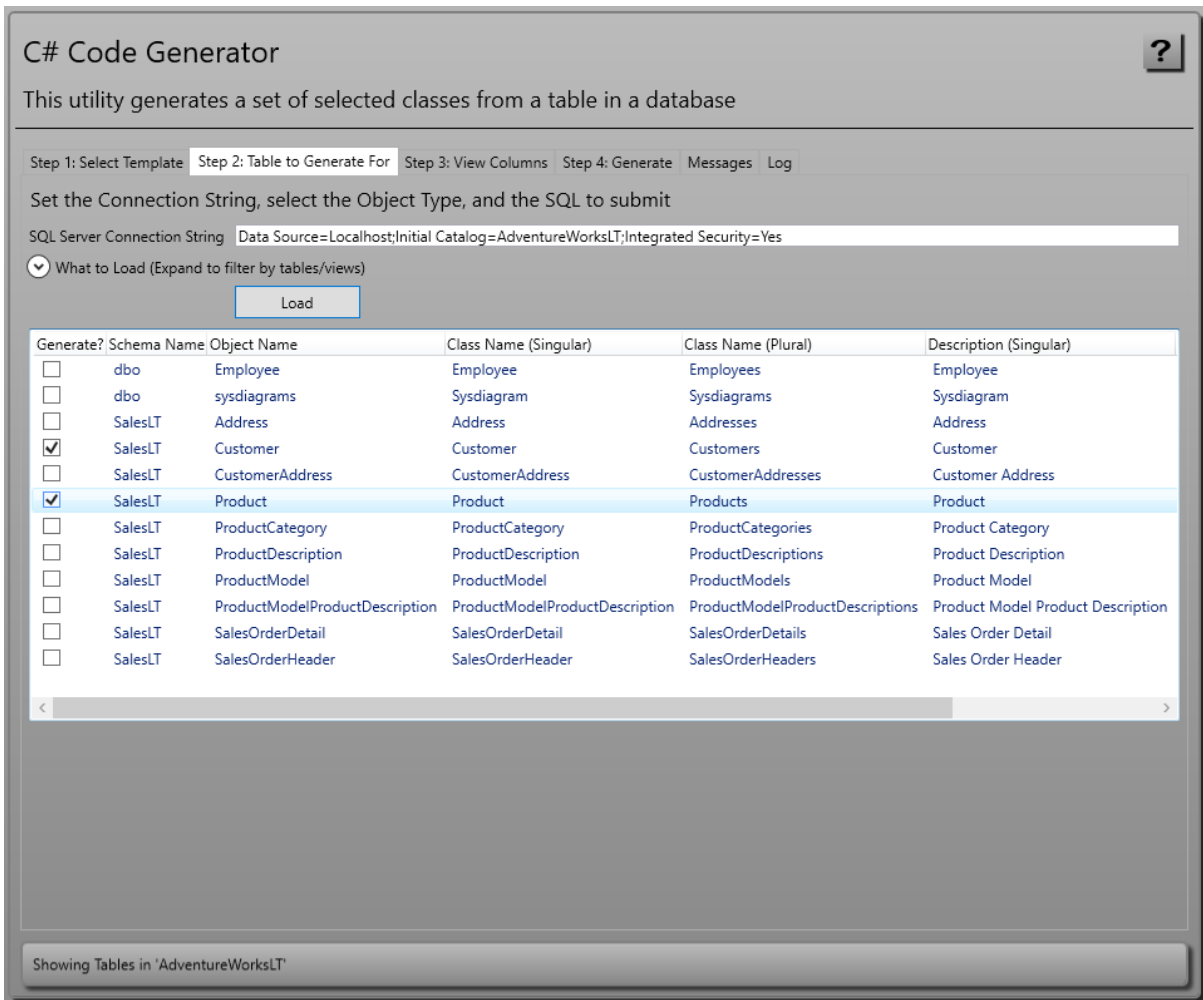


Figure 20: Step 2: C# Code Generator Table to Generate For Tab

## Step 3: View Columns

On this tab (Figure 21) you can view all the columns for this table and check or uncheck the appropriate usage of each of the columns. You may also modify the Property Name, Label and C# data type. **NOTE:** If you change any of these values, they are not saved after the generation occurs.



**C# Code Generator**

This utility generates a set of selected classes from a table in a database

Step 1: Select Template   Step 2: Table to Generate For   **Step 3: View Columns**   Step 4: Generate   Messages   Log

Columns for Table/View 'SalesLT.Product'

Column Name	Property Name	Label	C# Data Type	Is Search Field?	Is Description Field?	Display in Table?	Display in Edit?	Is Insertable?	Is Editable?	Is Email?
ProductID	ProductID	Product Id	int	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name	Name	Name	string	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ProductNumber	ProductNumber	Product Number	string	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Color	Color	Color	string	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
StandardCost	StandardCost	Standard Cost	decimal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ListPrice	ListPrice	List Price	decimal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Size	Size	Size	string	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Weight	Weight	Weight	decimal?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ProductCategoryID	ProductCategoryID	Product Category Id	int?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ProductModelID	ProductModelID	Product Model Id	int?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SellStartDate	SellStartDate	Sell Start Date	DateTime	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SellEndDate	SellEndDate	Sell End Date	DateTime?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DiscontinuedDate	DiscontinuedDate	Discontinued Date	DateTime?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ThumbNailPhoto	ThumbNailPhoto	Thumb Nail Photo	byte[]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ThumbnailPhotoFileName	ThumbnailPhotoFileName	Thumbnail Photo File Name	string	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
rowguid	rowguid	Rowguid	Guid	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Generate 294 rows for table 'SalesLT.Product'

Figure 21: Step 3: C# Code Generator View Columns Tab

## Step 4: Generate

Click on **Step 4: Generate** (Figure 22) to fill in information on how you wish to generate the C# classes. 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.

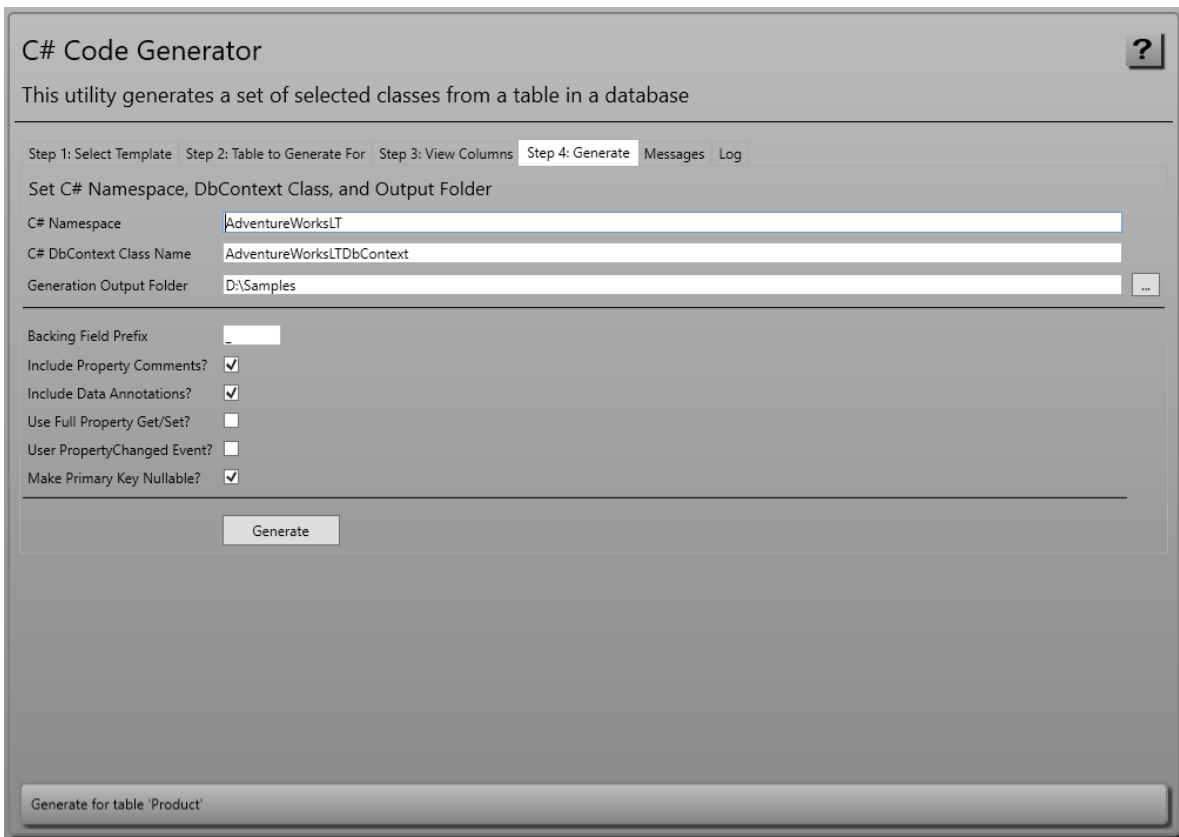


Figure 22: Step 4: C# Code Generator Generate Tab

## Create a .NET 6 Project

If you generated the code for a .NET 6 application, follow the instructions in this section. Start Visual Studio 2022 and create a new MVC Core Web App (Model-View-Controller) application as shown in Figure 23.

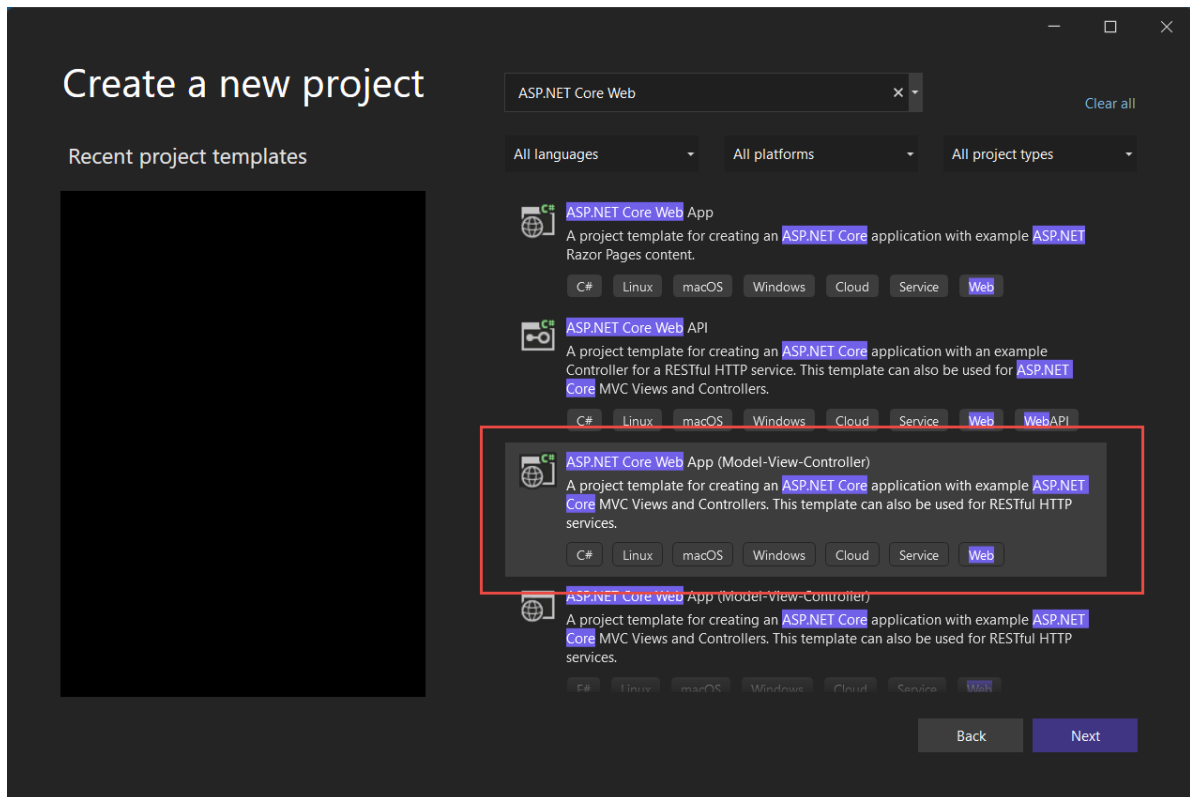


Figure 23: Create an ASP.NET Core Web App

Click the **Next** button. On the next page set the **Project name** to the same name as your database as that is what the Code Generator is going to use as the default namespace. You can always modify this later, but for now, just name it this.

Click the **Next** button. On this screen select *.NET 6.0 (Long-term support)* from the **Framework** drop down. Select *None* from the **Authentication type** drop down. *Uncheck* the **Configure for HTTPS** check box. Click the **Create** button to create the new application.

## Add Entity Framework to your Project

Right mouse-click on the Project folder in Visual Studio and select **Manage NuGet Packages...** from the menu. Click on the **Browse** tab and type in **Microsoft.EntityFrameworkCore.SqlServer**. Install this package into your project.

## Generate the MVC and Data Classes Code

In the PDSC Developer Utilities, open the Code Generator and select the .NET 6 (Data Classes) template. Click on the **Step 2: Table to Generate For** tab. Fill in the database name you wish to use to generate from (this should be the same

database name as the project name you just created). Click the **Load** button. Click on one of your tables you wish to generate from.

Click on the **Step 3: View Columns** tab. You are only allowed to check or uncheck any of the check boxes in this table. You should not change any of the first 3 columns (Is Nullable, Is Primary Key, and Is Auto Increment), but feel free to modify any of the others. For this first time, you should just leave everything as the default values.

Click on the **Step 4: Generate** tab. The **C# Namespace** field should be filled in with the name of your database. Change the **Generation Output Folder** to a valid folder on your hard drive to where you wish to generate the files. You should not change anything else this first time trying this out. Click the **Generate** button.

Now, click back on the **Step 1: Select Template** tab. Click on the **.NET 6 (MVC)** template. Click back to **Step 4: Generate** tab and click on the **Generate** button again.

Using Windows Explorer, navigate to the folder where you just generated all these files. The folders and files should look like Figure 24.

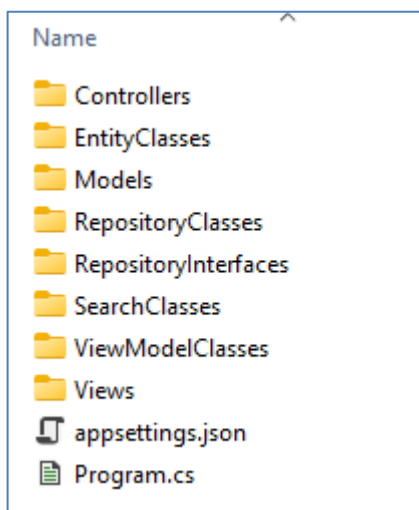


Figure 24: The generated folders and files for the .NET 6 MVC project

Select all folders and files and copy them to the Windows clipboard. Go the project you created in Visual Studio and click on the Project. Paste everything from the Windows clipboard into your project. When prompted if you want to overwrite any existing folders and files, answer **Yes**.

## Try it Out

If everything was copied into the correct place, you should be able to compile the project. Open the `\Views\Shared\_Layout.cshtml` file and locate the `<li>` tag that is used to display the Home menu as shown in the code snippet below.

```
<li class="nav-item">
  <a class="nav-link text-dark" asp-area="" asp-controller="Home"
  asp-action="Index">Home</a>
</li>
```

Copy the complete `<li>...</li>` tag to the clipboard, then paste it back in just below the closing `</li>`. Modify the `<li>` tag to use the name of your table.

```
<li class="nav-item">
  <a class="nav-link text-dark" asp-area="" asp-controller="[YOUR
TABLE NAME]" asp-action="[YOUR TABLE NAME]Index">[YOUR TABLE
NAME]</a>
</li>
```

Run the application and click on your new link and you should see a complete CRUD page appear!

## Create a .NET Framework 4.x Project

If you generated the code for a .NET Framework 4.x application, follow the instructions in this section. Create a new ASP.NET Web Application (.NET Framework) as shown in Figure 25.

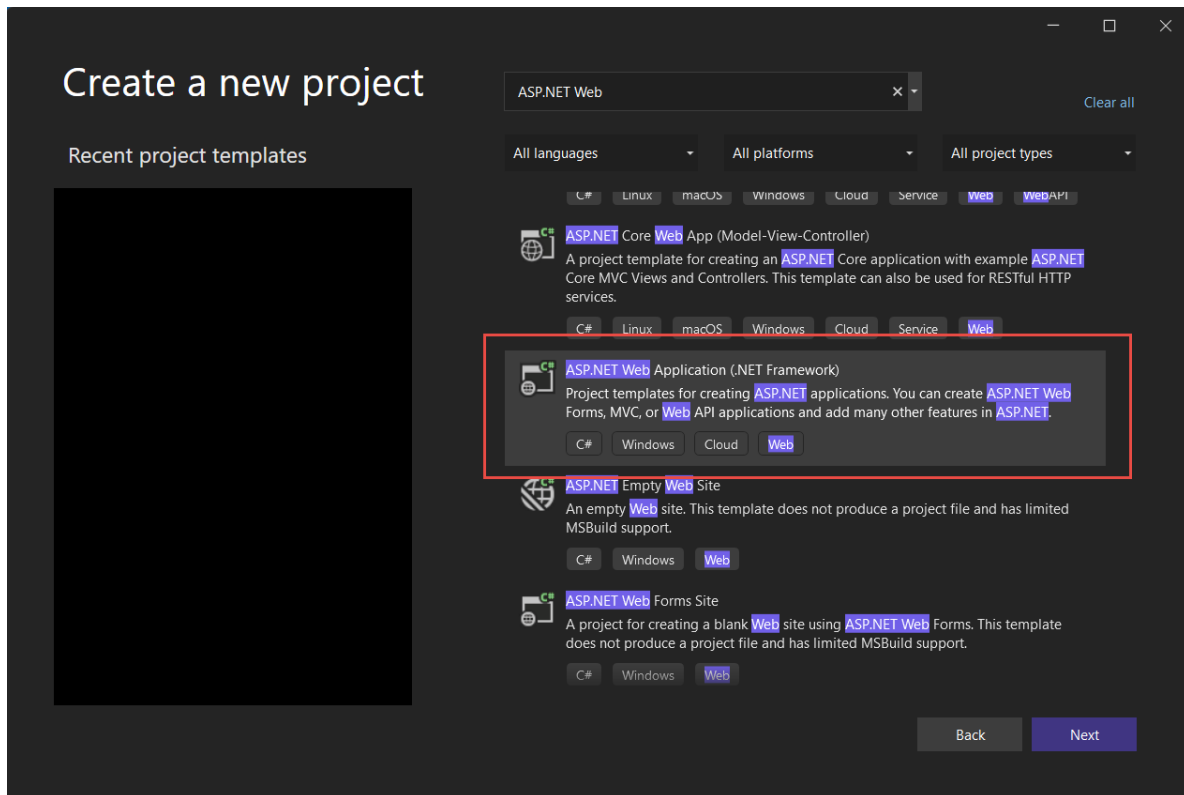


Figure 25: Create an ASP.NET Web Application (.NET Framework)

Click the **Next** button. On the next page set the **Project name** to the same name as your database as that is what the Code Generator is going to use as the default namespace. You can always modify this later, but for now, just name it this. Make sure you set the **Framework** drop down to *.NET Framework 4.8*.

Click the **Next** button. On this screen select *MVC* from the list of project types. Set the *Authentication* to *None*. *Uncheck* the **Configure for HTTPS** check box. Click the **Create** button to create the new application.

## Add Entity Framework to your Project

Right mouse-click on the Project folder in Visual Studio and select **Manage NuGet Packages...** from the menu. Click on the **Browse** tab and type in **EntityFramework**. Install this package into your project.

## Generate the MVC and Data Classes Code

In the PDSC Developer Utilities, open the Code Generator and select the .NET Framework 4.x (Data Classes) template. Click on the **Step 2: Table to Generate For** tab. Fill in the database name you wish to use to generate from (this should be the same database name as the project name you just created). Click the **Load** button. Click on one of your tables you wish to generate from.

Click on the **Step 3: View Columns** tab. You are only allowed to check or uncheck any of the check boxes in this table. You should not change any of the first 3 columns (Is Nullable, Is Primary Key, and Is Auto Increment), but feel free to modify any of the others. For this first time, you should just leave everything as the default values.

Click on the **Step 4: Generate** tab. The **C# Namespace** field should be filled in with the name of your database. Change the **Generation Output Folder** to a valid folder on your hard drive to where you wish to generate the files. You should not change anything else this first time trying this out. Click the **Generate** button.

Now, click back on the **Step 1: Select Template** tab. Click on the **.NET Framework 4.x (MVC)** template. Click back to **Step 4: Generate** tab and click on the **Generate** button again.

Using Windows Explorer, navigate to the folder where you just generated all these files. The folders and files should look like Figure 24.

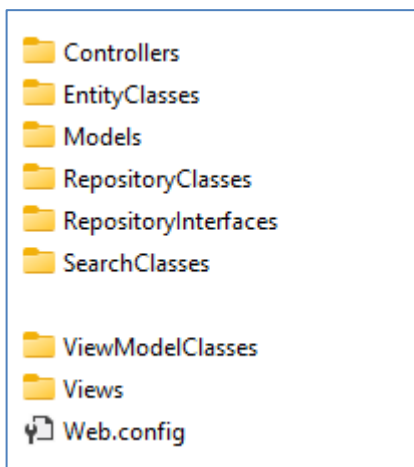


Figure 26: The generated folders and files for the .NET Framework 4.x MVC project

Select all folders and files and copy them to the Windows clipboard. Go the project you created in Visual Studio and click on the Project. Paste everything from the Windows clipboard into your project. When prompted if you want to overwrite any existing folders and files, answer **Yes**.

## Try it Out

If everything was copied into the correct place, you should be able to compile the project. Open the \Views\Shared\\_Layout.cshtml file and locate the <li> tag that is used to display the Home menu as shown in the code snippet below.

```
<li>@Html.ActionLink("Home", "Index", "Home")</li>
```

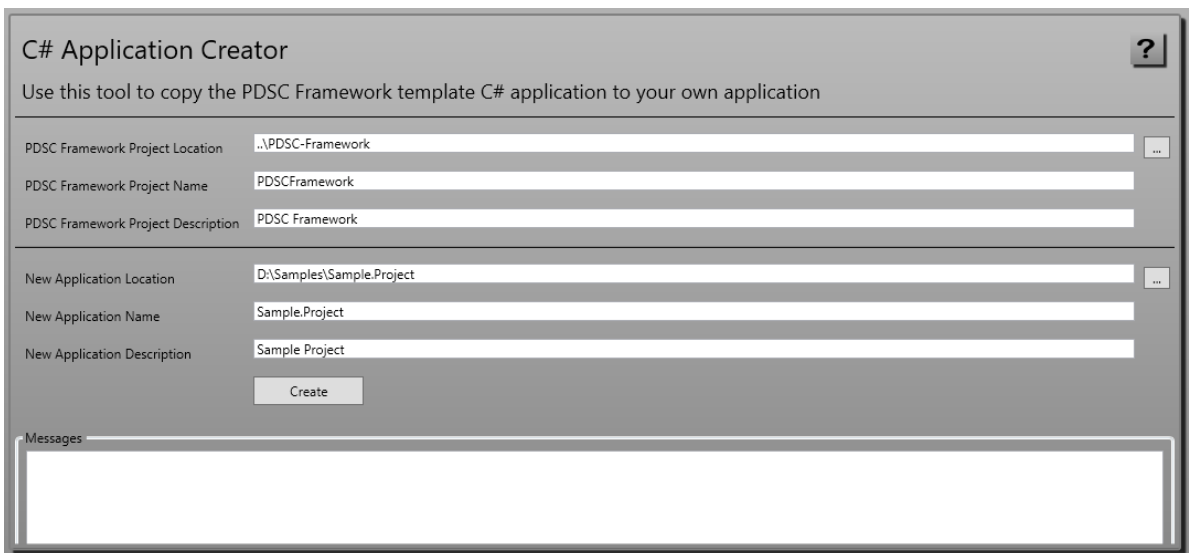
Copy the complete `<li>...</li>` tag to the clipboard, then paste it back in just below the closing `</li>`. Modify the `<li>` tag to use the name of your table.

```
<li>@Html.ActionLink("[YOUR TABLE NAME]", "[YOUR TABLE NAME]Index",  
"[YOUR TABLE NAME]")</li>
```

Run the application and click on your new link and you should see a complete CRUD page appear!

## C# Application Creator

Click on the C# App Creator menu to see a screen that looks like Figure 26. 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.



The screenshot shows the 'C# Application Creator' window. It has a title bar with a question mark icon. Below the title bar is a subtitle: 'Use this tool to copy the PDSC Framework template C# application to your own application'. The interface contains several input fields and a 'Create' button. The fields are organized into two sections. The first section contains: 'PDSC Framework Project Location' (with a browse button), 'PDSC Framework Project Name' (text input), and 'PDSC Framework Project Description' (text input). The second section contains: 'New Application Location' (with a browse button), 'New Application Name' (text input), and 'New Application Description' (text input). Below these fields is a 'Create' button. At the bottom of the window is a 'Messages' section with a large text area for displaying output.

Figure 27: 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 27.



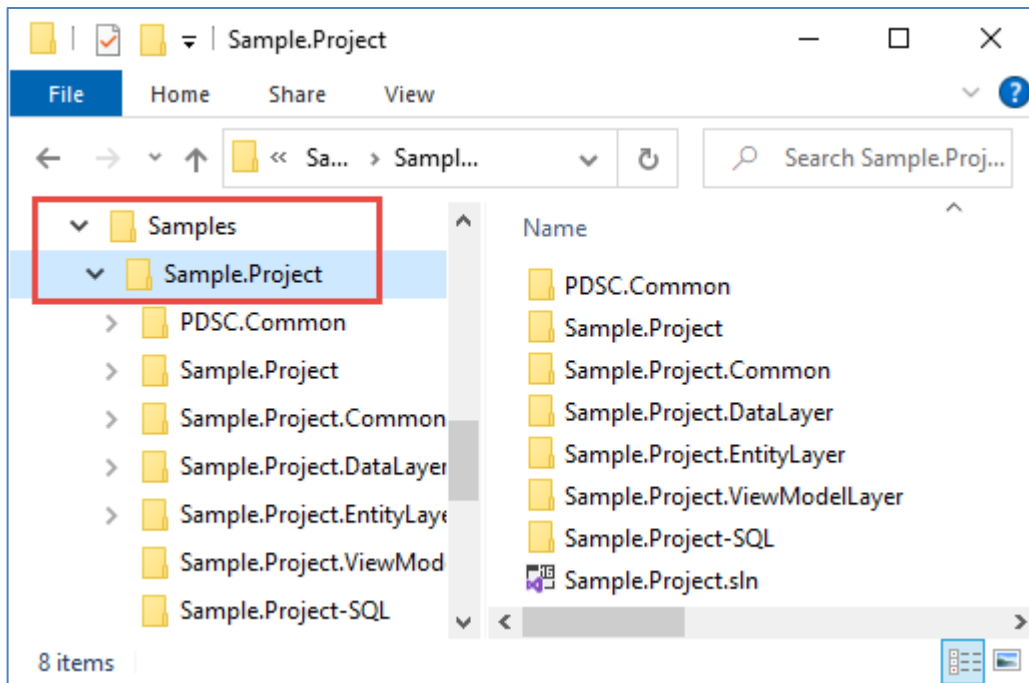


Figure 28: In the Application Location folder you find a folder structure like that of the PDSC Framework template.

## 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 28) 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.

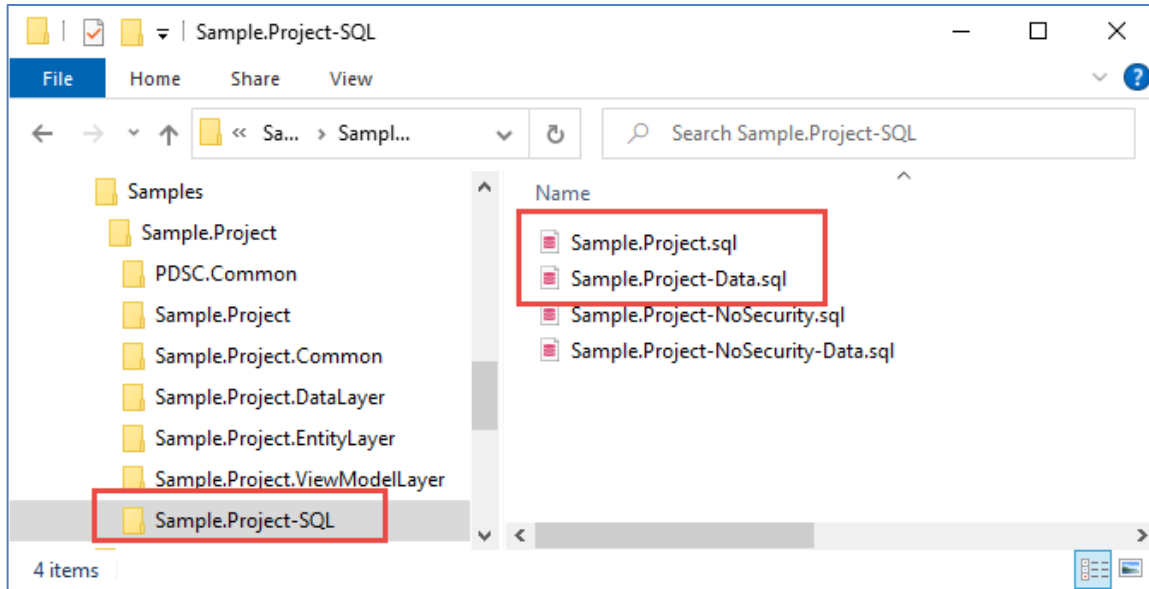


Figure 29: Locate the .SQL files to install in your new application folder.

## Run the Sample Project

Go to the **\Sample.Project** folder and double-click on the **Sample.Project.sln** 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 29) and a complete list of missing or changed objects will appear in the messages tabs at the bottom of the screen.

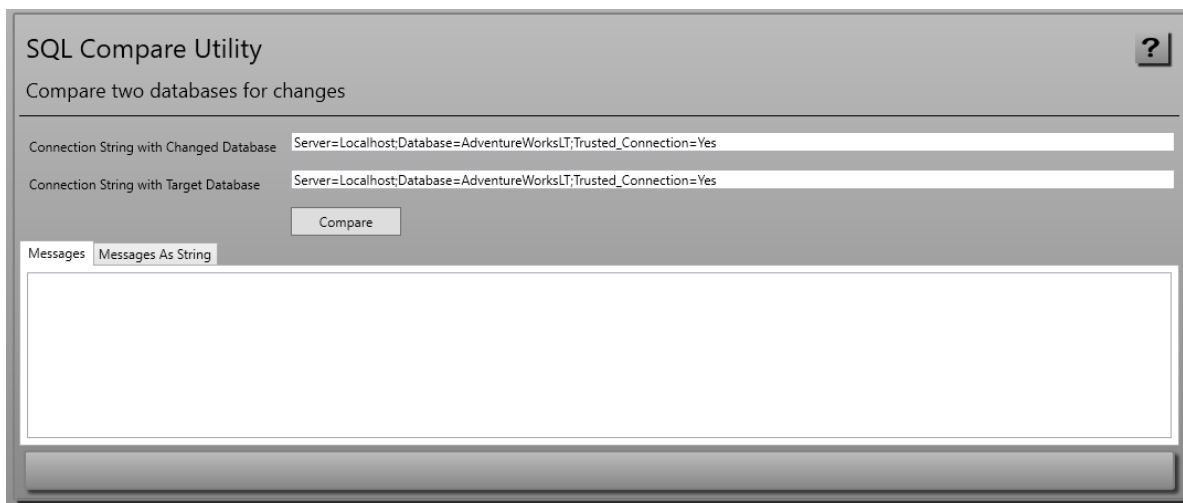


Figure 30: Get missing objects from one database to another via the SQL Compare Utility.

## Summary

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