Chapter 1: PDSC Tools - Installation

PDSC Tools Installation Procedures

Download the set of PDSC Tools from the PDS Consulting GitHub at https://github.com/PaulDSheriff/PDSCTools and place into a folder on your hard drive. The following table provides a description of what is in each folder.

Folder	Description
Documentation	Contains a set of documents to help you install, understand and use the various PDSC Tools.
PDSC-AppCreator	Contains the PDSC-AppCreator.exe which you use to build your own MVC application from the PDSC Framework MVC template.
PDSC-DeveloperUtilities	Contains the PDSCDeveloperUtilities.exe which you use to run the various utilities to clean your computer, clean up projects, generate JSON and XML.
PDSC-Framework	Contains the source code to the PDSC Framework MVC Template.
PDSC-Haystack	Contains the Haystack.exe which you use to generate MVC pages, EF repository and entity classes and more.

Open SQL Server Management Studio and create a new database named **PDSCFramework**. Locate the PDSAFramework-SQL folder, open the PDSCFramework.sql file in SQL Server Management Studio and run the script to create the database objects. Open the PDSCFramework-Data.sql file in SQL Server Management Studio and run the script to add data to the database objects you just created.

Locate and double-click on the **PDSCFramework.sln** file to load the MVC template application. Once it is open, run the solution and you should see the web page appear as shown in Figure 1.
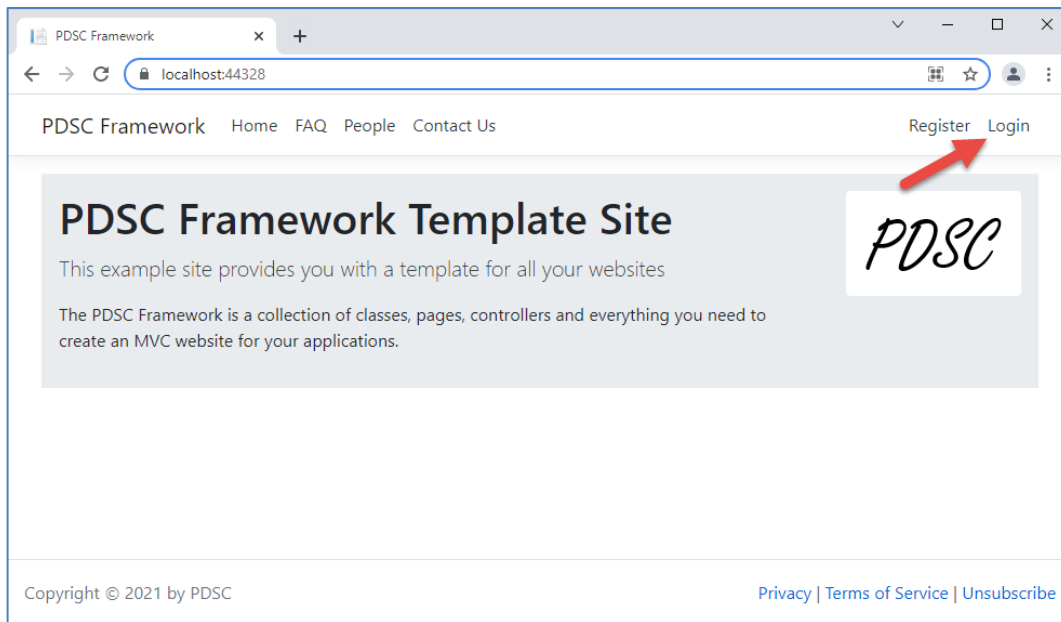
Figure 1: The PDSC Framework Template Site

Click on the Login button to display the web page shown in Figure 2. Use the email 'bill@microsoft.com' and the password 'P@ssw0rd'.
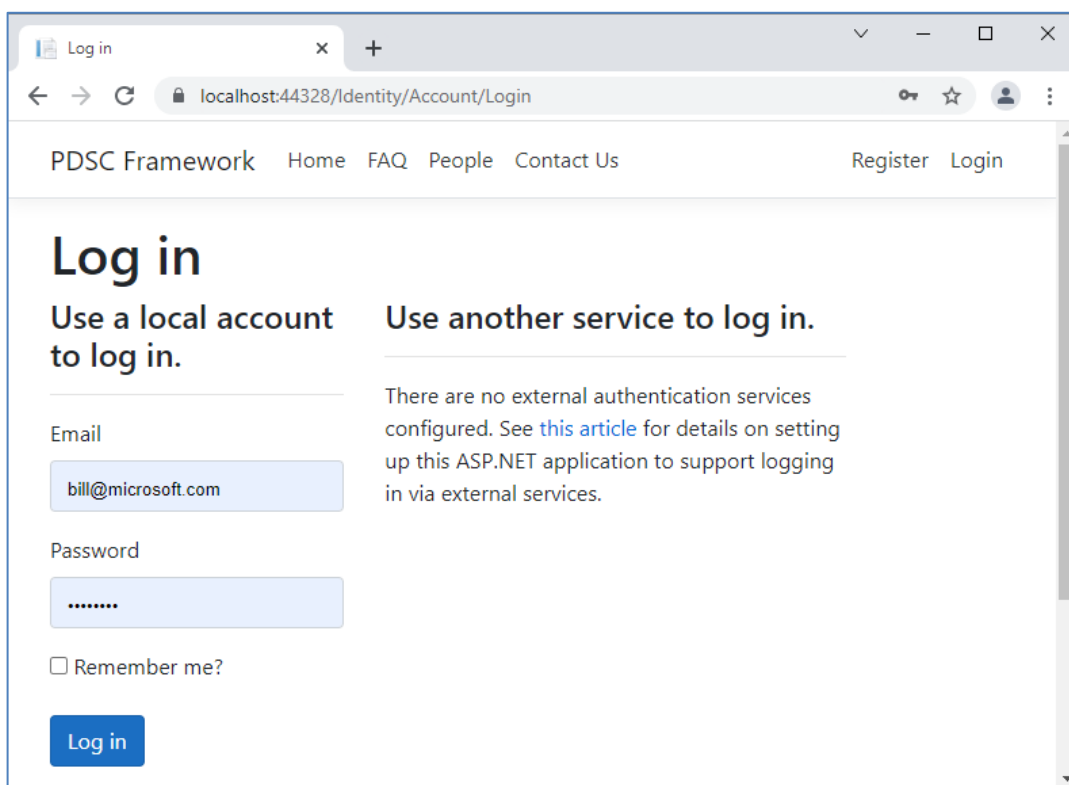

Figure 2: Login to the PDSC Framework site

If everything works correctly, you should be redirected to the home page that now displays the email address in the right-hand corner as shown in Figure 3.
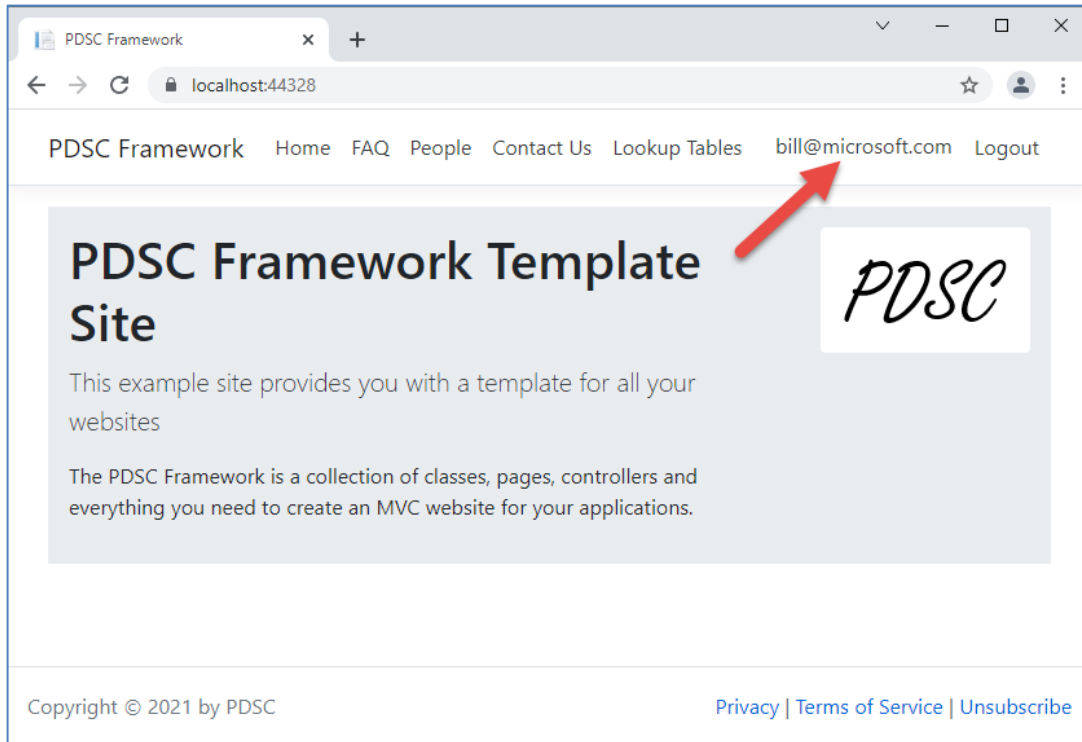

Figure 3: The email of the current user is displayed after login.

Haystack Installation Procedures

In the \PDSC-Haystack folder, locate and run the **Haystack.exe** file and go through the setup screens explained on the next pages.

Configure Haystack Screen Step 1

Depending on the configuration of your machine, the next screen you see could be the **Configure Haystack** screen (Figure 4). All meta-data for the database schema that is used to generate classes must be stored in a SQL Server 2008 or later database. If you have SQL Server Express installed your machine, there is a pre-created database that will be used to store the Haystack meta-data and you will not see the Configure Haystack screen.
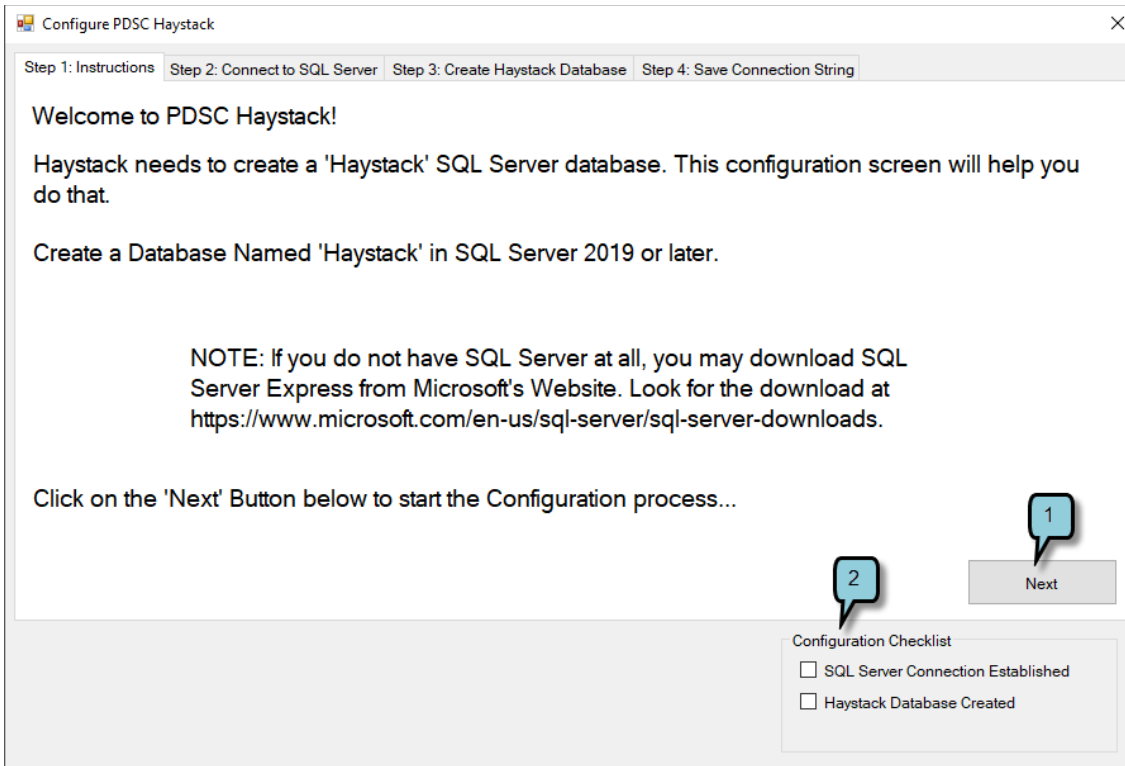
Figure 4: Configure Haystack screen (Step 1: Instructions Tab)

If you do not have SQL Server Express you will need to create a SQL Server 2019 or later database where the Haystack software will store its project and information and table meta-data. The Configure Haystack screen will help you create the Haystack SQL Server database.

1. Click the Next button to start the configuration process.
2. The Configuration Checklist will inform you of your progress through this Configure Haystack wizard.

Configure Haystack Screen Step 2

If you have database administrator rights on a SQL Server on your local or network server, you can use the Configure Haystack screen to create the Haystack database as shown in Figure 5.
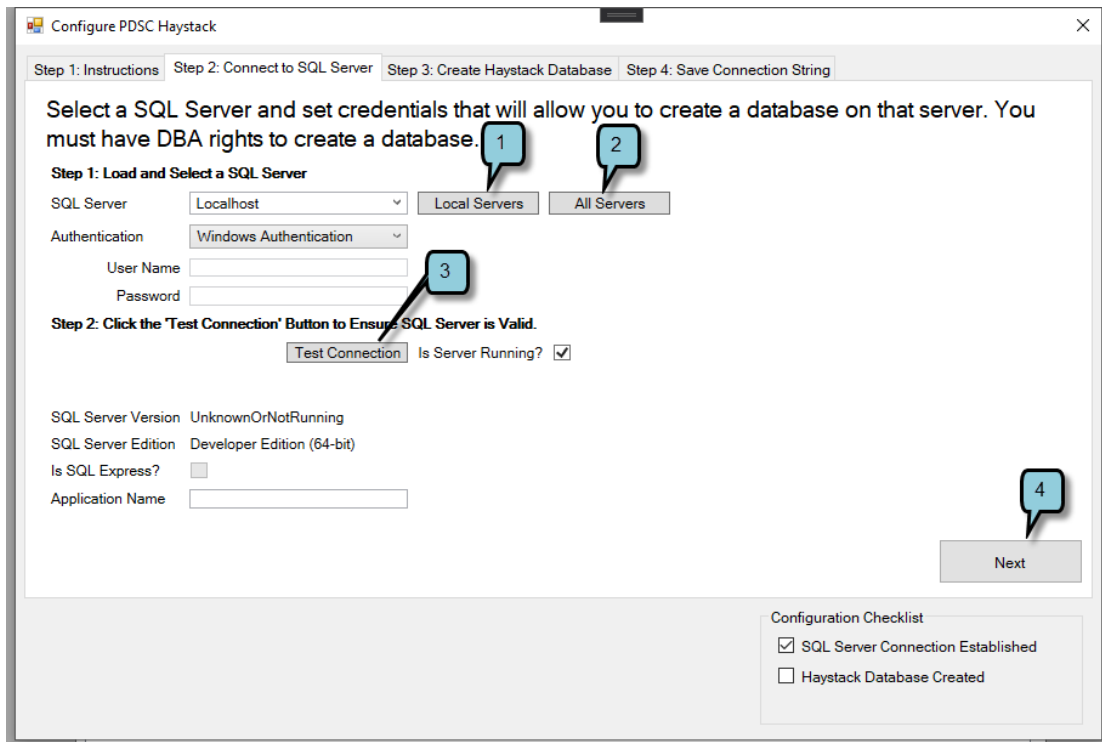
Figure 5: Configure Haystack screen (Step 2: Connect to SQL Server Tab)

The combo box is pre-loaded with any local SQL Servers you have on your local machine.

1. Click on Load Local Only, to just load your local SQL Servers.
2. Click on the Load Network Servers to load all SQL Servers on your network. This might take a few seconds to accomplish.
3. Click on this button once you have put in the appropriate credentials for the specified SQL Server. If you get the credentials correct, then the Next button will be enabled.
4. Click here to continue to the next step in the process.

When you click on the "Click Here to Test Connection" button, not only will it connect to the server, but will also tell you the SQL Server version, and check to see if a Haystack database exists on that server.

Configure Haystack Screen Step 3

On the Create Databases tab (Figure 6) you will create the database on the SQL Server you specified in Step 2. You must have **DBA rights** to create this database and create tables.
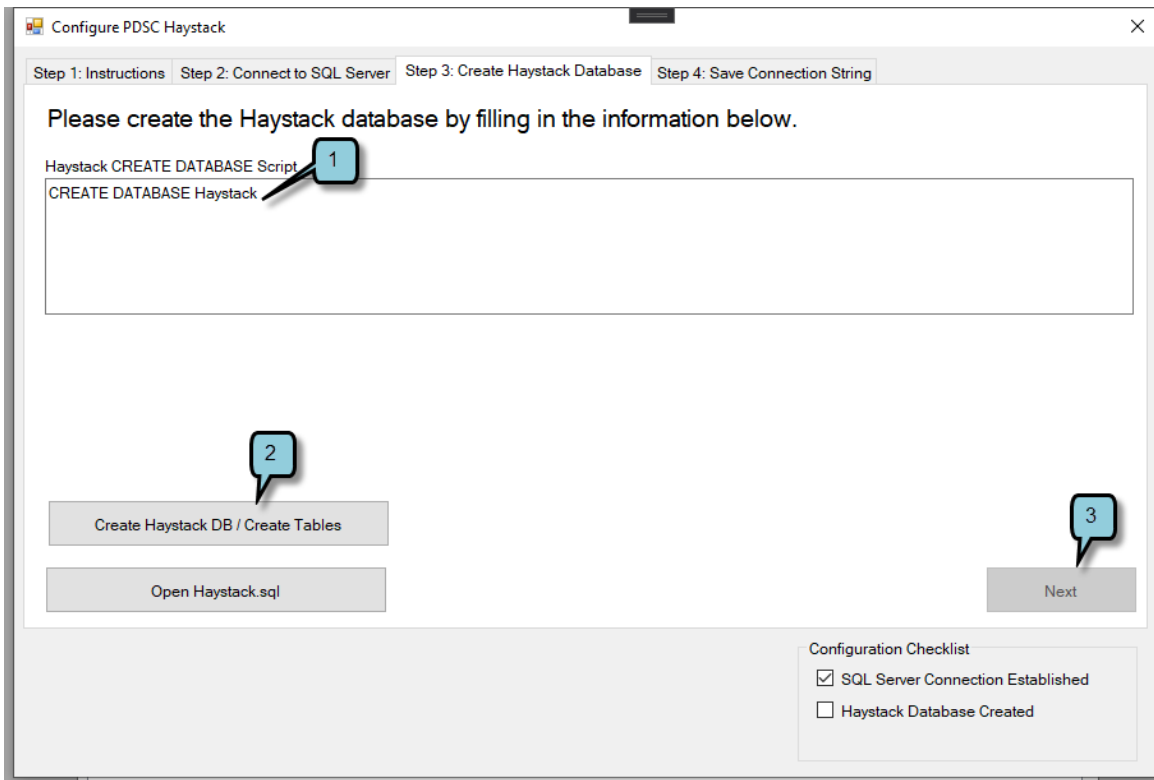
Figure 6: Configure Haystack screen (Step 3: Create Databases Tab)

The combo box is pre-loaded with any local SQL Servers you have on your local machine.

1. Click on Load Local Only, to just load your local SQL Servers.
2. Click on the Load Network Servers to load all SQL Servers on your network. This might take a few seconds to accomplish.
3. Click on this button once you have put in the appropriate credentials for the specified SQL Server. If you get the credentials correct, then the Next button will be enabled.
4. Click here to continue to the next step in the process.

When you click on the "Click Here to Test Connection" button, not only will it connect to the server, but will also tell you the SQL Server version, and check to see if a Haystack database exists on that server.

Configure Haystack Screen Step 3

The last step in the Configuration process (Figure 7) is to save the Haystack connection string. Click the Finish button on this screen.
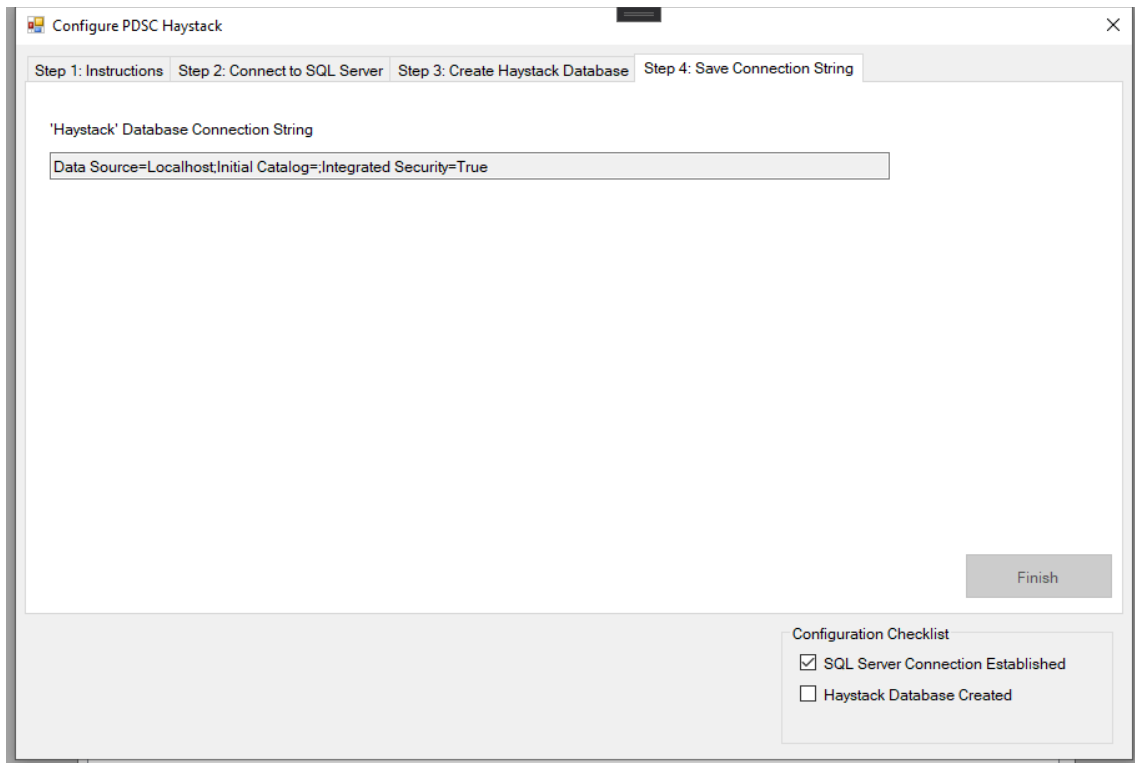
Figure 7: Configure Haystack screen (Step 4: Save Connection String Tab)

You are now ready to start using Haystack.